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Traders up in arms over parking fee

A 600-name petition has been launched by businesses and shoppers against on-street parking charges in Walsall town centre. Hundreds of people have backed their campaign.

The protests started after the charges were introduced just over a month ago. The petition will be submitted to Walsall Council. Traders say they have lost hundreds of pounds a week since the charges of 20p every 10 minutes were brought in. Shopkeepers in Ablewell Street are asking for an amnesty of 20 minutes to encourage customers to visit their businesses.

Many of the shops in the street say they rely on trade from people stopping off in cars as they are based away from the town's main retail areas.

They insist the parking bay outside their businesses is now regularly empty.

Namead Khan, who runs News & Booze, helped to launch the petition after takings plummeted by up to £400 a week since on-street parking charges came into force last month.

The 24-year-old said: "We have got around 600 names from customers and shops. We are asking for 20 minutes free, and it would make a big difference."

"Nobody is going to come here and pay an extra 20p every 10 minutes to buy a chocolate bar, a sandwich or get a haircut. People have said they are right behind us," he added.

The council installed ticket machines and introduced the fees for 310 spaces in a bid to raise £100,000 a year. The cash raised will go towards offsetting the cost of the scheme and improving roads.

Paul Leighton, group leader for traffic management at the council, said traders had previously complained about the lack of parking in Ablewell Street for customers, deliveries and their personal parking.

He added: "The council is trying to manage these competing demands and feels the current arrangements deliver the maximum wider benefit, whilst also contributing to the cost of providing and maintaining parking facilities."

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Smile you're on camera every day

Councils in the region are keeping watch with almost 500 of their own CCTV cameras, the latest figures claim.

Walsall Council owns and operates 120 cameras, Dudley 81 and Sandwell 37 while people in Wolverhampton are watched the most, with the city council having 167 focused on the streets and 80 inside its own buildings. A total of 485 council cameras are in use in the whole of the region, recording town centres, shopping areas and car parks.

Walsall Council has 100 fixed cameras and a further 20 mobile CCTV units that can be sent out to monitor "hotspots". Bosses said they used the cameras to combat crime and anti-social behaviour on the streets.

As well as their own 81 cameras, council staff in Dudley also have access to another 51 belonging to separate organisations.

Spokeswoman Katherine Finney said: "There are 81 Dudley Council owned and operated CCTV cameras in the borough. The majority of these are public space cameras. Others cover areas such as public car parks. There are a further 51 cameras monitored by the council on behalf of others, including 30 on behalf of Centro, 15 Wolverhampton Urban Traffic cameras and six on behalf of the Castlegate retail/leisure park."

Pair were part of a gang which 'hunted like a pack'

TEENAGED ROBBERS WALK FREE

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Two young robbers who were part of a gang of muggers that "hunted like a pack" during Christmas in Walsall have walked free from court.

Leon King, aged 15, and 16-year-old Omari Maitland were among thugs who preyed on victims, some younger than they were, for the "kudos".

The pair can be named after a judge said their crime spree in Wolverhampton and Walsall in December last year was "so grave", the public had the right to know who they were.

But Judge Amjad Nawaz said he could allow them their freedom because he had to consider their "welfare".

As they left the court room on Monday, the teenagers shook hands and smiled. Minutes earlier, the court had been told how a 13-year-old victim had been told he would be killed if he reported the mugging to the police.

Another victim targeted in the underpass by the Bilston Street Island feared he would be stabbed. Mr Paul Reid, prosecuting, told Wolverhampton Crown Court this particular victim had heard one of the gang ask another: "Did you wet him?"

Mr Reid said: "He took that to mean 'Had he been stabbed?'. He became concerned but there were no knives seen."

The victim was lifted up and pushed along and told he was going to be taken to a cashpoint, but he managed to flee.

Bruises

He went to hospital where bruises and a reddening around his front and neck was examined. A police officer saw King nearby and was able to pick him out.

The pair were caught using CCTV evidence and victims seeing identification parades. Judge Nawaz told the teenagers: "You hunted like a pack in order to steal property from people who were picked on going about their business."

"That's the most serious part - it stops people from enjoying their rights to go about town in safety."

He said had the pair been aged 17 or older, he would have had "no hesitation" in sending King to custody for three years and Maitland for up to two years. But Judge Nawaz said the pair's personal circumstances were "exceptional" and he also had to consider their welfare.

"You've both been off the rails for some time and this is designed to bring some order back into your life," he added.

Judge Nawaz said no-one reading the outcome of the case should be under the impression that robbery was not taken seriously. He said the sentence he was passing was "not an easy breach" and warned both they could expect custody if they breached their orders.

King, of Owen Road, Pennfields, pleaded guilty to six robberies. Maitland, of Vale Street, Ettingshall, pleaded guilty to three.

Miss Sabbia Pathan, defending GCSE student King, said: "He felt he was influenced by others and there was a sense of kudos going along with the group and the gang culture." Maitland's barrister Mr Kevin Grego said he had only taken part in three of the robberies and they had all happened in a very short period on the same day.

Judge Nawaz said the gang had used "gratuitous violence" against victims at night. Witnesses had described King as playing



Outside court are Omari Maitland, left, in the hat, and Leon King

an "extremely leading role in some of the offences, using or threatening violence to take property." His lawyer said he came from a "tremendously supportive family" and had a letter of support from Labour councillor Elias Mattu, who represents Graiseley.

King was now focused on his education and wanted to complete his GCSEs, it was said. Lifting reporting restrictions that would have prevented naming the pair, the judge said: "Given the nature of these offences, it is in the public interest to have these matters reported."

"These are such grave offences that it sends out a message of deterrence if nothing else."

King was given a youth referral order for 18 months and ordered to be under supervision for a year.

He was also given a three-month curfew banning him from leaving home between 7pm and 7am.

Maitland was given a 12-month youth referral order and will undergo six months of intensive monitoring.

In addition, King was given a criminal anti-social behaviour order banning him from associating with Maitland and other named individuals.

King had no previous convictions while Maitland had a reprimand for theft.

Four locked up over drug enterprise

Four Walsall men involved in a drugs enterprise have started lengthy prison sentences for conspiring to supply cocaine and heroin.

Gulnawaz Ahmed, aged 30, of Gladstone Street, Birchills, Walsall, was jailed for seven years at Wolverhampton Crown Court after being found guilty of offences after a March trial. The other men, all from Walsall, admitted charges at earlier hearings for the part they played in conspiring to supply Class A drugs in Birchills in September and October 2009.

Omar Raysat, 22, of Bloxwich Road, Birchills, smiled as he got a five-year jail sentence. Daniel Green, 26, of Moat Road, Alumwell, and Craig Evans, 28, of Bescot Road, Pleck, did not react as they were given three years.

Mr Timothy Sapwell, prosecuting, said Ahmed was "managing director", receiving drug bulk deliveries and using his home as a stockroom.

He said Raysat was the "retail manager", responsible for handling, storing and selling. Evans and Green were the street dealers.

Drugs were picked up at Ahmed's address and taken to Bloxwich Road to sell on.

The men were arrested after raids in October 2009 when Class A drugs, drug paraphernalia and £2,500 was seized at addresses in Gladstone Street and Bloxwich Road.

Ms Katherine Kelleher, for Ahmed, said he refuted any part of being involved in a conspiracy.

Mr Ekwail Tiwana, representing Raysat, said: "He was addicted to heroin, got into debt and was pressurised to take part. The enterprise was at the back of his garage where his family lived."

Mr Timothy Jacques, representing Evans, said his client received no financial benefit and was paid in drugs to feed his habit.

Mr John Evans, representing Green, said he too had fed a "craving" for drugs.

Centre worker is a life saver

A call centre worker has been praised for helping save the life of an 83-year-old whose house was on fire.

Walsall community alarm service worker Janice Faulkner called Leonard Birch after a smoke detector went off at his home in Darlston last week.

"He was addicted to heroin, got into debt and was pressurised to take part. The enterprise was at the back of his garage where his family lived."

Although he insisted he was OK, Mrs Faulkner stayed on the line and became concerned as he started to cough.

She alerted firefighters who got into his home using a key code box fitted outside his home as part of a telecare package for the elderly.

The house was full of smoke and Mr Birch was carried to safety. Firefighters estimated he would have died within 20 minutes.

Mr Birch's daughter Valerie Lester said: "I hope this will help people realise what a good system telecare is."

"My dad is the sort of person who will always say he is OK but in this case he had left the frying pan on and hadn't asleep in his chair."

"If there hadn't been a smoke detector and the call operator hadn't acted as she did this could have been fatal for dad."

Watch commander Andrew Morgan, of Willenhall's fire station's green watch, said: "I am in no doubt if this had been a conventional alarm a delay would have led to a more serious incident."

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Revamp at park steps up

Work on the £7.5 million revamp of Walsall Arboretum will move up a gear in the next two weeks, with the historic boathouse given a new roof, the bowling green transformed into a community garden and the bandstand overhauled.

Council bosses unveiled more details on the £700,000 third phase of the project, which will also see the Lakeside cafe rebuilt in the next fortnight. Scaffolding is already encasing several of the main buildings, including the bandstand, boathouse and former lido cafeteria.

Over the next few days, the former bowling greens off Lichfield Street will be transformed into a community garden. Lichfield Street will also get a new entrance to the park.

The Grade II-listed boathouse, which was built in about 1874, will be given a new roof, and the Lakeside cafe will be converted into a shelter.

The final parts of the demolition of the Arboretum Road toilet block will also be completed in the next two weeks, and workers will rebuild the bandstand terraces and extend the bandstand's bridge.

Work that has already been completed includes the conversion of the former cafeteria into a pavilion for the ladies bowls club, the demolition of Peacock House and its gazebo and the repainting of the park's main entrance gates.

Overall, the multi-million pound project will include a new visitor centre and clubhouse, new trees, extensive repairs and the re-introduction of boating and watersports on the lake.

The third phase is due to be completed in July, with the new visitor centre open in 2012.

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Facelift shaping up

A £600,000 refurbishment of a Walsall centre for adults with learning disabilities is taking shape. A brand new training kitchen has been completed at the Goscote Centre, Goscote Lane, giving people the opportunity to gain qualifications in catering. A health and beauty room has been created and a conservatory has also been added.

Work started last spring and will

continue until the summer. Visitors to a community event recently put forward suggestions about what else they wanted to see at the centre.

These included allotments, a sensory garden, urban farm, café, farm shop and water feature.

Social care chiefs at Walsall Council said the developments would improve activities and opportunities for the adults.

War plaque returning home after 50 years

A First World War memorial is to be returned to its original home at a Bloxwich school about 50 years after it was removed. Residents have campaigned for 10 years to have the plaque put on public display.

After twice moving home, the brown and cream alabaster marble plaque, the size of a set of double doors, is to be installed at Elmore Green Primary School. All 70 fallen soldiers to which the plaque is dedicated were pupils there before the Great War when it was a secondary school.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk



The memorial which is to be returned to its home

Over limit driver is given 15 month ban

A man has been banned from driving for 15 months after being found over the drink drive limit following a car crash in Walsall.

Robert Parker, aged 35, of Alamein Road, Willenhall, admitted driving a vehicle while over the limit at Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

Parker was driving a Renault Laguna when it crashed with a Peugeot 206 in Lower Lichfield Street on April 5. Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said the female driver of the Peugeot sustained injuries and was taken to Walsall Manor Hospital. Mrs Meakin said: "He was described by police officers as having blood-stained clothing and smelling of alcohol. He was taken to the police station and gave a reading of 73 micrograms of alcohol in 100 millilitres of breath." The legal limit is 35. Parker, who was not represented, apologised to the court for his actions.

He was disqualified for 15 months, fined £100 with £85 costs and £15 victim surcharge.

Located

But after an appeal in the local press by campaigner Edna Marshall, whose uncle Thomas Ecclestone is listed on the roll of honour, it was located at Cannock stonemasons A Walker & Son where it had been taken for safe keeping.

Mrs Marshall, of Bloxwich History Society, said: "I'm just very pleased for everybody who has got relatives listed on the plaque. At last it will be returned to its right and proper home at Elmore Green School."

Walsall Council building services team manager Mark Brian said: "We have arranged for the memorial to go back to its original home. This will take place during the Easter break."

Mrs Marshall's uncle Thomas Ecclestone died of influenza in France at the end of the war in 1919.

Bids due on course

Bids for funding to convert Walsall's only municipal golf course into a country park will be submitted this autumn, council chiefs have said. The park with picnic areas and horse riding and cycling routes is to replace The Grange which shut down more than a year ago.

Up to £400,000 is to be spent on the project at the Walsall Arboretum Extension and it is hoped funding

will be available from the likes of Woodland Creation Grants. Bosses are now preparing external bids for money. These would allow the former nine-hole course of around 40 years to become a lush woodland area.

Walsall Council leisure chief Chris Holliday said: "The country park will be a magnificent asset and a fabulous extension to the Victorian Arboretum."

Gunmen rob man at ATM

A man was threatened with a gun outside a Darlaston supermarket as he withdrew money from a cashpoint. Two men targeted the victim as he used the cash machine at Asda in St Lawrence Way.

The robbers threatened him with what is believed to be a firearm and forced him to hand over £50 at around 11pm on April 14.

The victim was unhurt and chased after the men who escaped in a waiting car.

Police are now investigating. West Midlands Police spokeswoman Catherine Hickman said: "The man was uninjured during the incident."

"Following the robbery the victim chased the men for a short time and saw them get into a waiting black car."

Asda Darlaston spokeswoman Cath Whitehouse said: "The store was closed at the time. We close at 10pm."

"This is now a matter for the police." Detectives are urging anyone with information to contact Force CID at Bloxwich on 0345 113 5000 or speak to Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555 111.

Team-up for the homeless

Walsall Council is joining forces with two other Midland authorities to look at accommodation offered to homeless teenagers.

They are set to pool their combined "buying power" which they say will give young people more choice, but will also reduce costs in the long term.

The idea has emerged as part of Walsall's Working Smarter initiative which looks at improving services for local people, improving efficiency and delivering better value for money.

Walsall cabinet gave officers the green light to enter into a collaborative contract with Staffordshire and Telford and Wrekin councils, at a meeting recently.

The agreement, likely to be for an initial term of three years, will affect homeless teenagers and around 40 young people who leave the care of Walsall Council each year.

Father writes book on organs scandal

A new book by the father of a baby girl from Willenhall whose organs were retained without her parents permission has been published.

Joseph Lawlor wrote Thief of Hearts about his daughter Kaine, who died of meningitis in Birmingham Children's Hospital in 1989, at 18 months. Proceeds from the sales will go to charity Meningitis UK for vaccine research.

The book is available from internet stockists including www.authorhouse.com and www.amazon.com

Police team date

Officers from Pelsall and Shelfield neighbourhood police team in Walsall are holding a surgery at Pelsall Library, High Street on April 30 from 10.30am to 11.30am.

Holiday sporting fun for all



Marcus Price, aged eight, Jamie Longdon, 12, Zach Webb, 11, Callum Maybin, 10 and Chloe Mason, 11, enjoy the sessions at Willenhall School Sports College

Youngsters have been keeping busy over the holidays with a host of sports in Willenhall.

Activities have been organised for young people including badminton, judo and tennis.

Up to 40 children a day have been visiting Willenhall School Sports College to enjoy the events each day.

The boys and girls finished off the week with a trip to Ackers adventure centre in Birmingham. Community manager Anthony Derrer said: "It has

been really successful and the kids have really enjoyed themselves.

"We wanted to give local young people something to do in the holidays. It gives them a chance to take part in active pursuits, learn some new skills and try new sports."

An invite-only multi-skills academy is being held in Furzebank Way this week. A selection of 11-year-olds will be coached in sports such as judo and hockey.

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Offices sell-off to raise £7m

A sell-off of more than 20 offices housing at least 1,000 staff will raise £7.2 million for Walsall Council.

Council bosses last week approved a plan to slash the number of local authority offices from 26 to just two. They also agreed to look at the future of Darlston Town Hall in a bid to "maximise its use".

By 2016, more than 1,800

council staff will have been relocated to the Civic Centre and Council House. They will have to share just 1,234 desks and 20 per cent will be asked to work from home.

Around 350 employees could also be temporarily accommodated at 293 desks at the Education Development Centre in Rushall, the home of schools manager Serco. Making the

project a reality is expected to cost £5.7m, including a £1.5m revamp of the Civic Centre and £1.8m of computer upgrades to allow more flexible working.

However, the office sale is expected to bring in £7.2m and revenue savings will start to be seen in three years. The council has to save £70m by 2015 and has warned that "doing nothing is not an option".

Church finally to go

Mellish Road Church could be knocked down in as soon as three weeks' time – with the demolition costing £150,000.

Bosses at Walsall Council last week agreed to bulldoze the building and bill the owners, who are said to have long neglected the site, for the cost of the work.

Council leader Mike Bird said it was excellent news as the eyesore church had been a blight on the com-

munity for years. This is long overdue," he said. "Officers need to approach the owners, we need to see the colour of their money. We have been doing all the hard work and I hope they now have some divine intervention and get some resources."

"Quite simply, this church is going to go – and I hope it's not brick by brick but will come down in just one or two days." Additional paperwork is expected to cost an extra £10,000.

£200,000 to keep roads up to scratch

A road surfacing scheme in Walsall is costing more than £200,000. Council bosses revealed the cash has been spent as part of a package of carriageway improvements on eight roads.

More schemes are due to be rolled out to improve carriageways. Walsall Council executive director Jamie Morris said: "Overall, we look after more than 500 miles of highway in Walsall, and it's a key task to help keep traffic moving. Right around the year we are investing in the road network in Walsall."

"The next few weeks are no exception." Work is ongoing in Beacon Road, Phasey, to investigate the state of the road and stabilise an embankment there at a cost of £95,000.

Another £133,000 has been set aside for resurfacing work in Walstead Road, Delves, a commuter route linking Bescot and the A34 Birmingham Road. In Portland Road, Aldridge, £3,300 is being spent on repairs. In Willenhall, £5,000 has been spent on surfacing Lister Street, and in Birmingham Street £200 has been spent on filling potholes.

In West Street, Leamore, the bill for resurfacing is £5,000. Motorists are also faced with roadworks due to separate projects being carried out by utility firms.

These include Severn Trent Water sewer repairs starting today at the junction of Profit Street and Stafford Street, Birchills. This is due to finish on Good Friday.

Spokeswoman for the water company Sarah-Jayne O'Kane said: "The work forms part of an essential multi-million pound investment programme by Severn Trent Water to revitalise the existing sewerage system."

"The programme is using a relining technique that allows us to repair the sewer without having to open up the highway along the whole length of the pipe," she added.

Drivers already face another set of major roadworks, in Bescot Road, Pleck, due to emergency sewer repairs.

Hall is missing out on weddings

Couples are avoiding booking Darlston Town Hall for weddings, with council chiefs blaming the lack of interest on a "competitive market."

No marriages have been held at the Victorian building, despite the hall receiving a marriage licence just under two years ago.

There are no bookings for this year but bosses insist it is a popular venue for other events.

Jamie Morris, Walsall Council executive director, said: "Darlston Town Hall is licensed for civil ceremonies and is available for receptions and parties. It is a fine building and the people of Darlston are as proud of it as we are."

"There have been no civil ceremonies as yet but there have been plenty of bookings for receptions and parties. It's a popular venue."

"We market the venue under the constraints allowed by current budgets in what is a competitive market," he added.

It was expected the first wedding would take place last October but a provisional booking was cancelled.

To enquire about the town hall's availability, call 0845 111 2900.

Church to reopen for Easter

A church in Walsall is to reopen after being closed for six months when the heating system broke down. St Aidan's, Hawbush Road, was forced to meet in the home of a church member over the winter while arrangements were made to cover the cost. Church warden John Harris said a plumber had been hired to carry out the work and the church would be open on Easter Sunday for the first service since November. The bill is expected to run into four-figures. People served by the parish including Harden and Goscoe attended a fundraising fair to help cover the cost of the new system.

Mileage payouts review

Council bosses in Walsall are reviewing mileage expense claims to its employees as part of cost-cutting measures.

The council pays out the highest amount among Black Country councils of 65p per mile for 2010/11, which rose from 58.7p in 2008/9. It was 60.1p in 2009/10.

In Walsall, it amounted to a £1.3 million bill in 2009/10. But chief executive Paul Sheehan said a review was underway in an effort to bring the cost down.

He said: "Currently the council adheres to the nationally agreed car mileage rates set by the Local Government Employers Organisation."

"However, as part of a council-wide programme of work focused on value for money, the council has analysed its spend on car allowances to staff and has developed a proposal to revise car allowances, and reduce the overall spend by the council."

He said talks were already underway with trade unions to come to an agreement.

Damage admitted

A Walsall man who smashed a taxi windscreen after an argument with his friend has been ordered to pay £200 compensation.

Shamir Cooper, aged 25, of Remington Road, Beechdale, admitted criminal damage at Walsall Magistrates Court last week.

Mrs Maggie Meakin, prosecuting, said he had been in the taxi with a friend on his way home from Wolverhampton on April 2.

Mrs Meakin said Cooper told police he was tipsy and had only "tapped" the windscreen. Cooper, who was not represented in court, apologised for the damage. He was given an 18-month conditional discharge.

Parking fees blamed for shopper shortage

Less than half the parking spaces in Walsall are being filled on the busiest weekend trading day as shoppers turn their back on the town centre.

On average just 46 per cent of short stay spots are being taken on a Saturday, prompting claims that empty shops and high car park charges are driving people away to shop elsewhere. There are currently 512 short stay car park spaces across the town centre with an

Sports site is saved by charity

The future of an under-threat sports and leisure venue in Walsall has been secured after a charity stepped in to take over.

Bentley Leisure Pavilion was earmarked for closure in the raft of Walsall Council cuts to help save £150,000 over the next three years.

But the Old Hall People's Partnership has stepped in to take on the running of the pitches and bowling greens for clubs and players.

They manage four other centres in the borough and are now carrying out refurbishment work.

Denise Birkett, principal officer for the partnership said: "Taking over Bentley Pavilion for, and on behalf of the community, represents a significant challenge to the organisation but we have the skills and people to make it happen."

"We plan to develop a wide range of community based activities in addition to the traditional sporting opportunities," she added.

It emerged last winter that the council was planning to stop funding and operating Bentley Leisure Pavilion which offers leisure facilities such as a cricket pitch, bar and function rooms.

The authority said it was to save £150,000 over three years but people in the area said it would be missed. Now the plea for it to carry on has now been answered.

Teams, clubs, individuals and organisations wanting to use the refurbished facilities should call Denise on 01922 616165 or 01922 474684.

Male choir in town show

The Sheffield Male Voice Choir will perform at Walsall Town Hall next month. The concert at the Lichfield Street venue on May 21 starts at 7pm. Tickets, costing £10, are available on 0845 111 2900.

Swinging return to the 1940s



A 1940s evening will be held at Walsall Golf Club on St George's Day. From left are club members Dave Hopkins, Chris Hopkins and Terry Hooper.

A Walsall golf club is adding a twist to its St George's Day celebrations.

Walsall Golf Club, Broadway is holding an evening event with a 1940s theme, along with the usual bunting and decorations commonly associated with April 23.

One of the organisers, Christine Hopkins, said members wanted to do something to celebrate St George's as well as helping raise money for the club. She said: "We decided St George's Day is not celebrated enough."

Busting

"If we were to reduce the car park prices we would get more people in," he said. "We have got a lot of competition around us and we need every penny we can get spent in shops in our town."

"If we get more people here more shops will open and create a bustling town. We have got to have charges lower than everywhere else."

Steve Pretty, head of engineering and transportation at Walsall Council, said: "Parking arrangements are regularly reviewed so the council can determine how best to support Walsall's local economy."

"As part of this process the environmental scrutiny and performance panel is currently reviewing town centre parking arrangements."

"Car park occupancy rates have always been lower at weekends given the reduced demand for parking from weekday commuters. Current Saturday occupancy rates are generally in line with those experienced over recent years."

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Musical warns of comen

A musical is being performed in Walsall aimed at stopping pensioners becoming the victims of doorstep comen. There have been more than 14 distraction burglaries across the borough this year.

The thieves have been preying on elderly and vulnerable residents in Pelsall, Sheffield, New Invention, Streetly, Bloxwich, Leamore, Bentley, Moxley, Rough Hay and Pleck. Actors will now perform a free musical called 'Trickster' at Sheffield Community Academy on May 4 in a bid to tackle the problem.

Solomon Associates will perform the 45-minute show twice on the day, with the plot based on the true story of elderly war veteran George who battles to cope after being conned.

So far this year, Walsall victims have included an 89-year-old widow from Pelsall who had two handbags stolen by comen pretending to be water officials and an 81-year-old Aldridge woman who lost £160 to thieves.

The crime prevention musical has been arranged by Walsall Housing Group and Walsall Partnership.

Jayne Cooper, the housing group's older persons services manager, said the shows would take place at 9.45am and 1.45pm.

She said: "It raises awareness of bogus callers, from rogue salesmen, to fake reps from the 'water board' or people pretending to work for the local authority, and gives advice on how to spot the signs and make sure you don't become the next victim. Call 0300 555 666 for tickets or more information."

Sentence is suspended

A burglar who broke into a Walsall hair salon and a nightclub was given a three-month jail sentence suspended for 18 months for each offence.

Sean Lewis, aged 30, was sentenced at the town's magistrates court after he admitted theft at Designer Hair, Lower Hall Street, on August 30. He stole equipment and cash totalling £1,300.

Lewis, of Tasker Street, also admitted burglary with intent to steal at Retro Bar in Lichfield Street on April 3. Magistrates made an alcohol treatment requirement. He must pay £300 compensation to Designer Hair and £5 to Retro.

Woman accused over drugs bailed

A woman accused of being involved with the supply of drugs was given conditional bail and her case sent to crown court.

Tina Bagnall, aged 44, of Poplar Close, Bentley, Walsall, appeared at Walsall Magistrates Court last week charged with being concerned with the supply of crack cocaine on October 13 and offering to supply heroin on December 14. She is also accused of supplying heroin and being concerned with the supply of crack cocaine on November 4.

The case was sent to Birmingham Crown Court where she will appear on June 15.

Appeal over theft



The suspect

This is the man police want to speak to in connection with the theft of more than £130 of tinned salmon and cheese from a supermarket in Pelsall, West Midlands. Police have released images to track the man. The tins and cheese were stolen from Co-op in High Street. The theft took place at around 4pm on March 19. The man officers wish to speak to is white, in his mid 20s and with short light brown hair. He was wearing black tracksuit bottoms, black trainers, a cream coloured zip-up jacket. Call Pcs Bryan on 0345 113 5000 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

More roads will get review over speeds

Speed limits are to be reviewed on more roads across Walsall following moves to cut accidents on some of the borough's busiest routes.

Further roads are to be reassessed by Walsall Council chiefs after a recent review prompted plans to reduce limits on main routes including Sutton Road and Norton Road. More minor routes will be covered in the analysis over the next two years. The emphasis will be on all C and unclassified routes. It comes after all A and B roads were reviewed.

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Scheme for main route is dropped

Plans to replace a busy traffic island and narrow the carriageway along a main Walsall town centre route have been dropped, council chiefs have said.

Initial proposals for more than £100,000 of improvements on Wednesbury Road were being considered by highways bosses. The two schemes being looked at by the authority were for a narrow carriageway, improved road markings and signs near Oxford Road in Pleck.

Replacing the busy island adjoining Vicarage Place and Bradford Street and realigning kerbs were also being assessed as part of a combined £110,000 project. But they have now been discounted following an overview of borough routes. Walsall Council Transport chief Mark Rickard, said: "As the highway authority the council has a statutory duty to undertake routine investigations into collisions which have occurred across the network and to identify safety improvements."

Criteria

"Every year the local safety scheme programme, which uses funding from the Local Transport Plan, is reported to cabinet. To qualify for this programme the council has adopted a criteria of six or more personal injury collisions in the previous three years."

"This criteria is set to ensure the list of work is manageable and the sites with the worst collision history are prioritised. In the case of both these locations the number of collisions in the previous three years has fallen below six and therefore they no longer meet the criteria needed to be included on the programme."

Accident blackspots have been assessed by the council for improvements subject to Government funds. But the amount available has been hit by cuts. Projects being considered include the installation of traffic lights at the roundabout where Collingwood Drive meets Queslett Road. The £500,000 package would aim to slow down motorists. Others include junction improvements at Salters Road, Walsall Wood and rephasing signals in Bilston Lane, Willenhall.

Transport chief Steve Pretty, said: "Following on from the speed limit review for A and B roads, as required by the Department for Transport, the council intends to continue reviewing other classified routes in the borough."

A similar assessment process will be used to ensure that the speed limits are consistent across the borough's strategic highway network.

"As a result of the review it may be that some speed limits will require change to reflect the results of the assessment."

"Any proposed changes will of course be subject to traffic regulation procedures."

Restriction

A 30mph restriction is proposed along Sutton Road instead of the current 40mph limit.

However, complaints have been lodged about the plan for the busy route between Walsall and Pheasey.

Norton Road in Pelsall is expected to be dropped from the national speed limit to 40mph, with action to slow down motorists on stretches of Wolverhampton Road between the M6 and the town centre and Bosty Lane in Aldridge in the pipeline.

Sutton Road is to benefit from a Watchman sign.

A sensor placed on a pole detects drivers' speed limits, and anyone going too fast has their registration number displayed on a sign by the roadside.

GP defects to Labour

A GP who was a Liberal Democrat parliamentary candidate has joined Labour because of government NHS plans. Dr Murli Sinha, who runs a Walsall practice, stood in Walsall South at last year's general election, but lost to Labour's Valerie Vaz.

He said he left because of broken election promises and what he described as "drifting from one Tory policy to another". Dr Sinha was offi-

cially welcomed by Labour's shadow communities secretary Caroline Flint MP when she visited the borough to meet party members.

Dr Sinha, based in Pleck, said: "My reasons for leaving the Lib Dems are because of the U-turn they have done on the NHS above all, and also their forgotten promises on tuition fees."

"I am also deeply concerned at the reorganisation of benefits."

Criminals targeted by police

More than 20 criminals have been arrested in Walsall in the first two weeks of a new police operation.

A total of 23 have been arrested as part of Operation Serve and Protect, which launched on April 2. Charges so far included criminal damage, drug possession and witness intimidation. Det Ch Insp Ian Bamber said it was going extremely well and the good work would continue. Operation Serve and Protect concentrated on known criminals.

He said: "We are determined to make their lives more miserable than the misery they inflict on those they target."

Police officers are going to the homes of criminals to check on any curfew conditions they may have in place. In the past two weeks, 10 people have been locked up for being wanted on warrant and failing to appear before courts.

Five criminals have been arrested for breaching their curfews following checks carried out by officers.

A further three were arrested after being found breaching their electronic tags and one offender was recalled to prison for being in breach of his licence. Officers arrested and charged a man with criminal damage, drug possession and witness intimidation and he has been remanded in custody, while another man was arrested and charged with theft and a third arrested and released following a domestic incident.

Thieves strip pub of metal

Metal thieves caused £2,500 of damage when they stripped a pub in Brownhills, escaping with £100 of copper piping and £50 of brass light fittings.

It is believed they struck between 3pm on April 13 and 7.30pm the following Sunday. Police revealed the thieves broke in through a rear door at the Chester Road North pub.

West Midlands Police spokeswoman Joanne Hunt said: "Someone may have seen the theft as it is situated on a busy main road."

Thieves struck 122 times across Walsall in March.

Anyone with information on the Rising Sun raid can call the police on 0345 113 500.

Ealing comedy is to be staged

The Grange Players will be staging the Ealing Comedy The Titfield Thunderbolt at the Grange Playhouse, Broadway North, Walsall between May 19 and 28.

The play has been written by Philip Goulding and directed by Martin Groves, and is a parody of the 1953 Ealing film about a group of villagers battling to keep a branchline open.

The shows will start at 7.45pm. There will also be a matinee on May 21 at 2pm.

Tickets cost £8 and are available from the box office from April 21. More details: 01922 625100.

Eyesore salon to finally go



The former Curl & Dye salon, Wolverhampton Road



The mess at the rear of the derelict building

An eyesore building in Walsall is finally being demolished following 14 years of campaigning by fed-up residents and council court action. The former Curl & Dye hair salon in Wolverhampton Road is being pulled down.

The owner of the building was due in court earlier last week over its future and failed to appear, but demolition work on the shabby building has started. Javad Khan, aged 31, of Newcombe Road, Handsworth, Birmingham, was due to appear at Walsall Magistrates Court on Monday.

Mr Khan is to be prosecuted by Walsall Council for the second time under the Town and Country Planning Act over the state of the building.

It is understood he was prosecuted in August last year, but nothing was done with the site in Birchills until last weekend when demolition work started.

Regeneration chief, councillor Adrian Andrew, said he was delighted the owner was taking action but work was incomplete and the building had been left unsafe. Mr Khan was unavailable for comment.

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Award for US sex case police

Officers from West Midlands Police are to win an award after they put a stop to an American mother sexually abusing her two-year-old daughter live over the internet while a teenager from Walsall watched.

Detectives from the Child Online Safeguarding team received the honour from the US last week via video link.

Thomas E Delahanty II, US

Attorney for the District of Maine, presented the award following the successful conviction of Nicholas Wilde in the UK and Julie Carr in America.

Carr, of Maine, has been locked up for 20 years after she was convicted of child pornography charges.

She admitted producing videos for then 19-year-old Wilde, of Holmbridge Grove, Sheffield,

who is serving four years and eight months in jail for making and distributing indecent images and inciting sexual assault on a child under 13.

West Midlands Police discovered the videos, which were recorded by Wilde, in June 2009 while investigating another child pornography case. Just 24 hours later, Carr was arrested by authorities in America.

Lights fail 24 times

Traffic lights on the multi-million pound Walsall ring road are failing at an average of once a month causing chaos for motorists. Signals have already stopped 24 times since the £23 million scheme was completed just under two years ago.

Walsall Council chiefs insist the problem is usually fixed within two hours and the busy route is fully operational more than 98 per cent of the time. The ring road was finally finished in May 2009 but was almost a year behind schedule and more than £5m over budget.

Highways bosses have insisted the lights are "extremely reliable." Paul Leighton, of Walsall Council, said: "Traffic signals will occasionally suffer from unplanned faults, as they operate 24 hours a day in all weathers."

"Since the ring road was completed we have rectified 24 faults."

Older parts of Manor to be upgraded

The oldest parts of Walsall Manor Hospital are to undergo a revamp to bring them in line with a £170 million transformation of the site.

The hospital finished most of its multi-million pound redevelopment scheme and opened its revamped buildings a year ago. Now the inpatient centre, formerly known as the West Wing, will be given a £300,000 facelift to give it the same reinvented look as the rest of the hospital.

The improvement work will be carried out over the next 12 weeks.

It will include redecoration of walls, enhancing the lighting and refurbishment of doors along levels 1 and 2 of the inpatient centre.

All sub-corridors that lead to ward areas are to be included in the works and will be redecorated with better lighting and new flooring.

Included in the refurbishment is the redecoration of the old West Wing reception area and all stairwells. Lincoln Dawkin, interim commercial director at the hospital, said: "These important refurbishment works form part of our long-term estates strategy and will give the inpatient centre a much-needed refresh and bring these areas in line with the newer parts of our hospital site."

The hospital, which employs 3,000 people, has opened a new Family Health and Diagnostics Centre and an outpatients and day case centre as part of its £170m revamp.

Due to the availability of natural light and the large open spaces in the new parts of the hospital, certain areas are now being used as art and photographic exhibition space.

Students from Birmingham City University are exhibiting their "photographic exploration of light" in the Family Health and Diagnostics Centre.

Councillor going it alone in ballot

A deselected Walsall councillor is to go it alone in next month's local elections after being replaced by the Conservatives.

Paddock representative Councillor Barry Sanders, a former Walsall Council leisure services portfolio holder, is to stand as an independent on May 5 in the same ward.

He was replaced by former Tory colleague Councillor Barbara McCracken, who previously represented St Matthew's.

"I wasn't deselected by the ward members, but by people from outside Paddock," he said.

"People in the area are astonished about what happened. I felt if I didn't stand this might be an opportunity lost."

Councillor McCracken's husband Gerry has been selected to represent the Tories in St Matthew's ward which covers the town centre, Butts and Caldmore.

Town follows the national trend with fall in jobless

Job queues have shrunk in Walsall as unemployment nationwide fell by 17,000 to 2.48 million last month, giving the economy a much-needed boost.

But youth unemployment edged closer to a million, hitting 963,000 16 to 24-year-olds - its highest since records began in 1992. In Walsall the claimant count fell by 68 to 10,165, or 6.4 per cent of the borough's working population - way above the national average of 4.4 per cent. The figure was unchanged in Sandwell at 12,981, or 7.1 per cent.

Open mic night at gallery

An open mic entertainment night is being held at Walsall's New Art Gallery later this month. The night of fun will allow young people who are aged between 13 and 19 to showcase their talents at Costa cafe in the Gallery Square venue on Saturday April 30 from 6-9pm. Admission is £1.

Tenders out over centre

The £200,000 destruction of Willenhall Leisure Centre will take six weeks as the start date for the controversial project was pushed back until the end of June.

Walsall Council bosses confirmed tenders for the demolition work had now gone out to companies.

It was originally believed the Bath Street centre would be knocked down in the next two to three weeks, unless a viable alternative was found for its future.

However, council spokeswoman Emma Tate said the provisional date was now pencilled in for the end of June to accommodate the tendering process.

"It will take approximately six weeks to demolish," she added.

The centre closed last August to save money for the council. Willenhall North councillor Ian Shires has always been against the plans.

He said: "We should take another look at using the building as an opportunity for small businesses that could be based there or community groups interested in taking it over."

Regeneration councillor Adrian Andrew has hinted there may still be a window of opportunity for any other last-ditch plans.

Egg hunt for young

An Easter egg hunt for children up to the age of 14 will take place in Willenhall Memorial Park on April 22.

The hunt in the Pinson Road park is open to teams for under 10s and under 14s, with a maximum of three per team.

Registration for the event will be at 10am and the hunt will start at 10.30am.

Anyone who wants more information about taking part in the event should call 01922 654893.

Depot takeover will mean 300 new jobs

Three hundred new jobs will be created in Walsall when a former delivery depot, which closed last year leaving 200 people out of work, is taken over.

Delivery firm Yodel will move into the old City Link site in Willenhall in the summer. It is the latest boost for the region's economy after it was revealed that jobless figures in the West Midlands have fallen by walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Skeleton is discovered by builders

A human skeleton has been discovered by builders working at a factory in Aldridge, police say. The grim find was made at disused land in Westgate.

West Midlands Police said they were treating the death as "unexplained" and said it is not known how long the bones have been there.

The skeleton was dug up by builders working at the back of Valen Fittings Ltd at 1pm on April 13. A police forensic archaeologist was at the scene carrying out tests.

Police spokeswoman Sarah Astbury said: "Tests are ongoing to find out who this person is. But at the moment we are treating it as unexplained."

Ben Oliver, project manager for the building site, said builders were on the vacant land as they needed to put up some scaffolding as part of work on an extension at Valen.

Mr Oliver said there was a ditch there and around 10 scoops of earth had been dug up when the bones were found. "At first I thought it was a joke, but then we called the police," he added.

Valen was established in 1976 and manufactures pipe fittings. No one from the firm was available for comment.

20 schools in line for improvements

Improvement work will be carried out at more than 20 Walsall schools despite funding being more than halved, council chiefs agreed.

The primary and secondary schools will share around £3.6 million of investment to ensure they comply with health and safety and fire regulations. Schools being improved in the current wave of schemes include Aldridge School Science College, Barr Beacon Language College, Brownhills School, Castleford Primary, County Bridge Primary, Delves Infant and Nursery, Delves Junior, Frank F Harrison, Harden Primary and Joseph Leckie Community Technology College.

Bands at library for hospice



Singer Chris Ward, of The Lock In, bottom left, with Steve Mohammed from the library forum, Sharon White, of the hospice and library assistant Becky Menear

A charity gig at a Walsall library will raise money for the town's hospice.

Headline act The Lock In was supported by Canadian country singer and songwriter Chuck Micallef at Bookmark Bloxwich. Bloxwich Library at the weekend to raise money for St Giles Walsall Hospice.

The Lock In features guitar player and vocalist Chris Ward, bass player Rus Fitzmaurice, drummer Baden

Fitzmaurice and mandolin player Andy Keatley.

Library assistant Becky Menear, who organised the event, said: "We have done fundraising events for the hospice in the past and Chris Ward is my brother. He offered to get the band together to play at the library for the hospice."

The £5.5 million hospice opened this week.

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Homes plan for ex-health centre

A former health centre in Walsall could be turned into apartments.

A planning application to revamp the disused Leamore Health Centre has been submitted to the council. The building, next to a row of shops in Broadstone Avenue, would be brought back to life and turned into five flats with two on the ground floor, two on the first floor and one as a "designer loft unit", if the application is approved.

The developer has been working with the council for a year on the plans. Richard Bentley, the agent representing the

unnamed developer, said the applicant has been working with planners at Walsall Council to amend the design and prevent problems such as privacy and a lack of parking space.

He said: "The proposal and design have been amended several times throughout 12 months with great consideration given with regards to the use of internal space."

"The design and scale will have a positive impact by improving the character of the area. It is neighbouring a small office/supermarket and pharmacy. The new residents will appreciate this perfect

location." The development will have one main front entrance and be accompanied by 10 parking spaces and one disabled space at the front.

The face of the building is planned to be white and cream, with grey slate roof tiles.

The building is not the only surgery in the borough which has been disused for over a year. Ednam House, Bloxxwich Road South, Willenhall, has been empty for more than six years. It was previously owned by Dr Anoolya Prasad, who was suspended from practising medicine in Walsall in 2004.

Student's brush with success

A Walsall College student has painted her way to success by winning a regional heat in the Dulux Decorator Centres' Apprentice of the Year competition.

Lucy Porter, aged 19, from Dudley, went head to head with peers from other colleges at Walsall College's Wisemore Campus.

The young painter and decorator apprentice said: "The competition piece was tough and tested my skills across a variety of painting and decorating elements and I am honoured to be representing Walsall College in the final in Bridgend in June."

Lucy won £100 of Dulux Decorator Centres' vouchers, a goody bag and certificate for her efforts.

She will now go on to compete against nine other students during the finals which are being staged at Bridgend College on June 15 and 16.

A cash prize of £1,000 will be up for grabs in the competition.

Lynda let loose at hospice fundraiser

Star of Loose Women and actress Lynda Bellingham visited Walsall to support a charity fundraiser.

Lynda, who was head of the family in the Oxo television adverts and is currently starring in Calendar Girls at the Birmingham Hippodrome, took time out from her busy schedule to give her backing to the new Walsall Hospice.

She visited the town for the first time to judge a Calendar Girls-style photo shoot which featured local workplaces.

More than 140 people attended the fundraising dinner for the hospice at the Village Hotel.

Waldrons Solicitors were named the winners. Lynda gave her support after being told about it by fundraiser Cheryl Bradburne at a book signing session.

She said: "I will go anywhere to support people like Cheryl who work so hard."

"I want people to think of hospices and care homes as a place to go that is protected and safe."

"Times are so tough and care is one of the most important things," added the TV chat show star.



Star of stage and television Lynda Bellingham at the fundraiser

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2 years ago reported the success story of two local lads, Matt and Dan Pennell,

This year we can report they are celebrating 3 years of being in business, and the company seems to be going from strength to strength. "We are pleased to announce the Opening of our 2nd shop in the Bromsgrove area". "We have both been surprised, and pleased, with how the business has progressed" states Matt. "In this current climate, people are choosing not to move and stay and improve their home, and a fireplace will add significant value to their home." Aldridge Fireplaces is a family-owned business with the emphasis on a relaxed, personal service and offers a unique service on all suites and packages - from wooden surrounds to exclusive marble suites.

The experienced sales staff are also able to offer packages to suit all ages and styles of home, and offer quality products at affordable prices, as well as manufactured bespoke fireplaces to the correct size for each customer.

In addition to this, there is currently free fitting on offer on all suites. adds Matt. "We offer free fitting by qualified Gas Safety Engineers which has proved successful as this is saving our

customers up to £250 off the cost of the installation. I don't believe anyone else is currently offering free fitting so I believe that has been key to our success over the last few months." Staff will also visit each home to ensure the correct specification of fireplace is fitted. "The choice of fires and fireplaces is a very personal one, so with us visiting each customers home personally we can offer advice as to which ones would look the best." "We are looking to celebrate our 3rd year of trading by offering our customers a one off amazing offer" "We are already offering **FREE FITTING** and for this Easter Bank Holiday Weekend Only purchase a suite from us and not only will we fit it **FREE** of charge, we will give you **25% DISCOUNT** off any of our Gas or Electric fire range."

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Council is paying £7m for temporary workers

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Walsall Council is spending millions of pounds on hundreds of temporary workers.

It has more than 300 agency staff on its books and is expected to spend £7 million on them up until September.

Bosses, who have to save £65m in three years, cut the figure from a high of £9.6m two years ago. Agency staff are brought in to cover council workers off sick or to provide specialist skilled work. Council leader Mike Bird has said he is determined to drive down sickness levels.

The average council worker has 12.07 days off a year. Councillor Bird said absences saw millions spent on agency workers at a time when they had to save vast amounts of money.

A contract with the agency staff provider ends in May and is now being advertised and put out to tender.

Permanent

Most recent figures reveal the council employed 326 agency staff, compared to 9,904 permanent workers.

From October 2010 to September 2011 it is expected to spend £7m on the temporary employees.

Between October 2007 and September 2008, bosses paid £9m and they spent £9.6m from October 2008 to September 2009. From October 2009 to September last year, the cost of agency workers was £7.8m.

Rory Borealis, council executive director for resources, said agency staff are primarily used to ensure continuity of service, maintaining delivery of frontline services where unplanned absences or vacancies occur and to provide specialist skills not available in the existing workforce.

"Agency staff remain vital to service provision although the council has been taking steps to reduce their usage and will continue to do so."

An options appraisal concluded the service was best provided via a single-lead agency as it is currently.

He added that agency workers currently represented just three per cent of the total number of people working for the council.

Youths on a high with musical



Amber Craegel and Ryan Gilbody, centre, with fellow performers

A youth theatre group has successfully presented their version of High School Musical 2.

The Walsall Youth Theatre production ran at the Forest Arts Centre in Leamore, Walsall. The Hawbush Road venue was transformed into the Lava Springs Country Club as Troy, Gabriella, Sharpay, Ryan and

the rest of the East High gang reunite. The show features hits such as Fabulous, You Are The Music In Me and What Time Is It.

Simon Pugh, Walsall Council performing and creative arts officer, said: "The Walsall Youth Theatre has staged incredibly successful shows such as Return to the Forbidden Planet and Don't Stop Believing."

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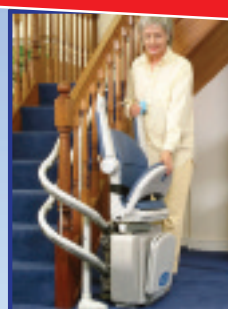
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Disgusted by behaviour of louts while walking in park

Dear Sir,
Recently, I decided to take my two young children out for a walk, as it was a lovely warm evening.

On the way, they both asked if they could go to the park. I couldn't see why not, however, I was soon to change my mind.

The tunnel leading up to the park was littered with glass, and smelled like a urinal.

When we got to the park, that was covered in broken beer bottles, there was a crowd of around eight men drinking lager,

and shouting obscenities to girls walking past, but the really distressing issue was that they had a group of young toddlers with them. I didn't want my children to witness any more, so we left.

As we were leaving a group of the so-called adults were actually vandalizing the swings with these little toddlers just watching them. What hope do those children have if their parents behave in this way?

The litter in Walsall Wood is just a disgrace, the High Street, and especially at KFC.

Oh, and don't mention those awful statues, what an abomination now they have all gone rusty.

Walsall Wood could be such a lovely village, there are plenty of green open spaces and spring flowers, but these are spoiled by litter, beer bottles and an abundance of dog excrement.

We have a beautiful church and a fabulous school (St John's). So, please people of Walsall Wood, look after your village and show some pride.

Name and address supplied.

Help to raise some wonga for epilepsy

Dear Sir,
I am writing to ask your readers to support people with epilepsy by getting involved in Epilepsy Action's charity Wonga Walks.

These charity Wonga Walks are taking place across the country to mark National Epilepsy Week which runs from 15-21 May. The week launches with the Epilepsy Action Ladybower Wonga Conga at the Ladybower Reservoir in the Peak District on 15 May. National Epilepsy week aims to raise awareness of epilepsy and raise funds to help support the 456,000 people living with epilepsy in the UK. Last year Wonga Walks all over the country helped raise an incredible £20,000 for Epilepsy Action.

To find out how to take part in a Wonga Walk or for information, please visit www.epilepsy.org.uk/wonga. You can also call 0113 210 8800.

Michael White,
Fundraising Events Officer, Epilepsy Action

Get some information on the coming elections

Dear Sir,
With many local government elections taking place in England as well as the UK-wide referendum on the voting system used to elect MPs, Thursday May 5 promises to be a big day for voters.

In our role as the independent elections and referendum watchdog, we're helping voters by sending an information booklet to every household in the UK. This tells readers what's going on and provides neutral, factual information, including how votes are cast and counted under the First Past the Post and the Alternate Vote systems, and the referendum question being put to voters.

Your readers can also get the booklet and more information, including an animated video where Victor the Vote Counter demonstrates both voting systems, on our website: www.aboutmyvote.co.uk.

Clinton Proud
Head of Campaigns,
Electoral Commission

Stop the cull calls

Dear Sir,
again pigeon owners are calling for culling of birds of prey, because some are being killed.

Farmers are calling for the culling of badgers, foxes being hunted, what will be targeted next?

Humans are taking over more and more of the country, which creatures inhabit and then moan because the animals get in the way or become a nuisance.

Many of the birds of prey have just been brought back from the verge of extinction, yet here we have people wanting to push the back towards it.

C R Walsall Wood

Save the town spire

Dear Sir,
Re: ex-Mayor Worrall's letter, it would be the usual travesty of local civic pride if the councilors allow the Melish church spire, at least, not to be preserved.

The words civic pride I think spells it all. Something seriously lacking in the 50 years since I arrived.

C Richardson,
Walsall.

Looking for memories of Arctic convoys in the war

Dear Sir,
Testimony Films is producing a new documentary for Yesterday Channel to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the beginning of the Arctic Convoys in the winter of 1941.

We are very keen to hear from anyone who made the treacherous journey from Britain to Russia in any of the Arctic Convoys throughout the Second World War.

We want to hear how they coped with the dangerous sub-Arctic conditions, the devastating loss of comrades at the hands of the enemy and the constant threat of attack from both the air and sea.

We would also like to hear about camaraderie, the sense of embarking on an adventure and how it felt to reach their destination safely. This film will be a fitting tribute to their bravery on behalf of their country.

If you or someone you know was involved with the Arctic Convoys and have memories to share, please contact me on 01179258589 or via pete.vance@testimony-films.com.

Pete Vance
Arctic Convoy Appeal,
12 Great George Street,
Bristol,
BS1 5RH.

Jump to boost meningitis trust

Dear Sir,
The Meningitis Trust is organising a skydive with the famous Red Devils on June 7, and I am jumping out of a plane at 13,000ft.

This is to help celebrate the Trust's 25th anniversary of supporting people who have been affected by meningitis. We still have a few spaces up for grabs and I would be delighted if your readers would join me. Please call 0845 120 4530 for a free information pack, or email events@meningitis-trust.org.

Sue Davie
Chief Executive
Meningitis Trust

If you are not happy with council then it's time to vote for change

Dear Sir,
I have over the last few weeks and months read articles and letters criticizing the current members of Walsall Council, particularly referring to Councillor Bird and his fellow cabinet members.

If the populace of Walsall are particularly aggrieved with decisions made and actions taken by the council and its officers then the ideal opportunity exists in May of this year to have your say and vote for new people to become members of the Council.

Instead of repeatedly writing to the press take positive action - vote them out of office.

Most of the criticism made is fully

justified but one criticism which I thought was rather unfair was the letter stating that one ward which just happens to be the one with Councillors Bird, Andrew and Towe as members, or "The Team" as Adrian Andrew refers to them, having more grit bins than any other ward.

This was rather petty as they may have more grit bins but they do have far less potholes to balance this out.

Come on, at the May elections, let your actions speak for you, as mine will.

Vote for change
P J Brown,
Shelfield,
Walsall.

Do you have something to say? Then write to Walsall Chronicle, 51-53 Queen Street, Wolverhampton, WV1 1ES or email walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk. Letters are published at the editor's discretion and may be edited. All letters and emails must include a full name, address and contact number.

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Killer Morris gives up freedom bid

Child killer Raymond Morris has scrapped plans to take his case to the European Court of Human Rights and will die in jail.

His legal team has confirmed his bid for freedom had ended. Morris was considering making an application to Strasbourg after his bid for an appeal was rejected at London's Royal Courts of Justice in February.

Cheryl Kirk, spokeswoman for solicitors Norrie Waite & Slater, confirmed the killer had given up on his fight for freedom. It means he will die behind bars.

"It was the plan to go to the European

Court of Human Rights and there were discussions about that, but it has come to an end," she said. Morris, a prisoner at HMP Wymott, Preston, has been in jail for 42 years for the murder of seven-year-old Walsall schoolgirl Christine Darby in 1967.

He is also the prime suspect in the killings of schoolgirls Margaret Reynolds of Aston in Birmingham and Diane Tift from Bloxwich, found on Cannock Chase.

The divorced father-of-two, who used to live in Green Lane, Walsall, has maintained his innocence over the decades. He was said to be "extremely disappointed"

with the outcome of the ruling in February. Morris's legal team spent seven years reviewing his 1969 conviction but the Independent Criminal Cases Review Commission rejected his bid for an appeal in June.

The former engineer's solicitors then secured a judicial review of that decision – but his claim was rejected by Mr Justice Simon at the Royal Courts on February 7.

The killer's appeal was based on his claims there was evidence of alleged police misconduct in respect to his conviction. The cases of five-year-old Diane and six-year-old Margaret remain on file.

Parking charges bid fails

An attempt to abolish controversial Sunday parking charges in Walsall has failed to win enough support.

Councillor Dennis Anson, Labour representative for Pleck ward, was leading calls for the charges to be scrapped.

But at a meeting recently, he failed to win the support of a working group which was looking into the state of parking in Walsall town centre.

Councillor Anson had hoped to win support from the working party and take the issue to Walsall Council's cabinet.

He said: "I didn't get enough support, unfortunately. But I would urge businesses and traders in Walsall who want to see the town booming and who don't agree with Sunday parking charges to keep the pressure on."

It was revealed Sunday parking charges had boosted council coffers by £38,000 in 18 months ago. Council leader Mike Bird says the money helps keep council tax down.

Vandals target site of £1m clubhouse

Yobs have targeted a £1.15 million community clubhouse under construction at a Staffordshire football club in a spate of break-ins.

Wyrley Juniors FC has been forced to pay hundreds of pounds for CCTV to protect the site.

The club, which has 45 teams from the West Midlands and Staffordshire, including Cannock, Wednesfield, Walsall and West Bromwich, has been hit several times – twice in the last week – since building began in January.

A dumper truck was taken from the compound in Long Lane, Great Wyrley, and driven into a nearby canal.

Then most recently vandals broke into the site and cut main electricity cables, taking power out at the site and also the neighbouring Teddy Bears children's nursery.

Chairman Keith Hardy was tipped off by residents that youths had got on to the site and climbed into the roofspace. He caught four teenagers and warned them off.

Mr Hardy said: "There have been other break-ins. It is disappointing, particularly as the facility is being built for young people like the ones I caught."



Keith Hardy, of Wyrley Juniors Football Club, who is fed-up after vandals struck for the third time, at the new club building in Long Lane, Great Wyrley

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Police crackdown on off-road bikes

A crackdown on nuisance off-road bikes and mini-motorbikes has been launched in a leafy neighbourhood on the border of Sandwell and Walsall – with one man already arrested and four vehicles seized.

A 20-year-old rider was arrested and charged for using a bike without insurance and assaulting a police officer as part of the operation in Pheasey.

Officers also seized four quad bikes that were being ridden on farm land off Chapel

Lane and Doe Bank Park. Four other riders were given anti-social behaviour notices, warning them their bikes could be seized if they continue using them in an anti-social way.

Pc Becky Tricklebank said the riders were "putting lives at risk".

Meanwhile, residents in West Bromwich today claimed mini-motorbikes almost struck children at play in the area. Homeowners say the riders have been

causing trouble around Devils Hill in Charlemont. Charlemont and Grove Vale councillor Ray Nock said: "I have had residents come to me to report these riders and they told me they saw children almost get hit by the riders as they cut across the grass while they were playing."

"They are causing a nuisance and they are dangerous as they are cutting across the nearby canal towpaths and the walkways."

Workers get their jobs back

Twenty workers at a Walsall factory that went into administration last year have had their jobs reinstated.

Casting firm Chamberlin & Hill bought assets of Darlaston door parts maker Jebron Ltd in February and took on some of the original workforce to continue production.

Jebron, of Bright Street, Kings Hill, supplied high quality door closers for 85 years. The firm, along with sister firm Jebron Plating, went into administration in December with the loss of about 90 jobs.

Reinstated staff will eventually transfer to Chamberlin subsidiary Exidor, Progress Drive, Cannock, which makes fire exits and employs 40. Chamberlin chief executive Tim Hair said a further 10 jobs will be created at Cannock due to the changes.

"We have been making and shipping products in Darlaston for about a month. During the next six months we will move out of the site, which we have to do, and set up the operation in a spare building which we have in Cannock," he added.

First steps towards teaching dance

Teenagers have learned about teaching dance during a week-long course in Willenhall.

Young people received tips on leadership, good communication and teamwork at Willenhall School Sports College. Fifteen girls from Willenhall and St Thomas More schools were involved in classes as part of the Sports Leaders UK programme last week.

It also includes choreographing routines and how to properly cool down following a dance session.

The 14 to 16-year-olds were due to take part in their final level one assessment which would allow them to go to the next stage.

It was organised through Sports Leaders UK in conjunction with the college.

Community manager Anthony Derr said: "It is the first one we have run and we are hoping to do a few more over the next few school holidays. "It has gone really well and the girls have all enjoyed themselves," he added.

Quiz night

A quiz night will be held at Walsall Football Club, Bescot Crescent on June 21. Call 01922 651412.



Danielle Tift, Jerri Cresswell, and Hannah Bridges, all aged 15, at the course

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Penalty powers are planned for wardens

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Traffic wardens in Walsall could soon have the power to pull over and fine motorists who are driving illegally.

At the moment, wardens in Walsall can only give out tickets for stationary vehicles that are parked illegally. But bosses are backing plans to give them the power to police moving vehicles across the borough.

If approved, wardens would be allowed to penalise drivers caught travelling in pedestrian zones or bus and cycle lanes, or flouting one-way restrictions.

Walsall Council, which said the move would allow police officers to focus on more pressing criminal matters, said illegal drivers would also be monitored on cameras across the borough.

Enforcement

The council's transport group leader Paul Leighton said: "Enabling the council to undertake the enforcement of parking and moving traffic contraventions through its civil enforcement officers would assist in directly addressing resident and business concerns relating to the operation of the public highway."

"Currently the council has to liaise and co-ordinate its enforcement activity with the police due to the split in enforcement powers and this can occasionally prove to be inefficient. Freeing the police from the responsibility to enforce moving traffic contraventions would also enable them to concentrate more on addressing community concerns relating to criminal matters."

The plans are still in their early stages. But a council report states: "Should moving traffic contravention powers be granted to the council, they could be enforced through a mixture of civil enforcement officers and video image detection technology."

If approved, wardens could also fine drivers making banned turns or flouting weight restrictions.

Jessica, 15, wins a new crown



Bloxwich Carnival princess Jessica Watts

Bloxwich beauty Jessica Watts was shocked to be crowned the town's carnival princess after entering for the first time last year.

But it has triggered a string of successes for the 15-year-old, of Turnberry Estate, who will appear in beauty pageant finals across the country this year.

She is also being crowned Willenhall's carnival princess in June after being selected last month.

Last October Jessica, who goes to Q3 Academy, Great Barr, was named Miss Teen Photogenic in Epsom, Surrey, winning a modelling contract and later this year she will be judged in the Miss Teen Cyberface online competition and the Miss Teen Spirit of True Beauty in Cardiff.

She is also a semi-finalist in the Miss Teen Great Britain 2011 competition. Jessica said: "It's an exciting experience and is good for your confidence."

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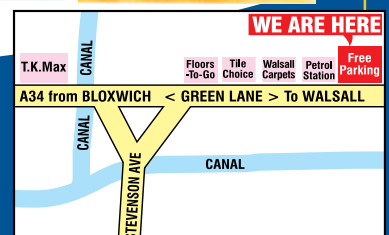
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Snapper puts his work on show



Brian Griffin has a new exhibition

A world famous photographer's exhibition about his roots in the region, which made its debut in Paris, has been unveiled.

The exhibition, called The Black Country, was inspired by Halesowen-born artist Brian Griffin's childhood and his experiences in the region and his years working in factories.

The show has just been opened at The New Art Gallery, Walsall, where it will run until June 19.

Many of the images focus on the factory worker, a job Mr Griffin knew well after leaving school at 16 at New Bank Construction, Halesowen and Rapid Conveyors of Lye.

Mr Griffin's mother worked at William Foxhall & Sons, Lye, packaging headless nails while his father was a horizontal borer working in various factories throughout his life.

Photographs were taken in factories in Lye and Cradley Heath, including Solid Swivel, Boro Foundry and Holtite Ltd, featuring actors and local chain-makers. Family photographs and Mr Griffin's written accounts of childhood also accompany the exhibition. "I hope people will look at these photos and get the sense of what a great place it was to grow up," said Mr Griffin, aged 62.

"It's such an interesting place and I feel proud to be from there."

Sleepy knifeman in threat

A drunken shoplifter armed with a knife threatened supermarket staff after falling asleep in the store.

Gavin Goodwin had been out of prison four days when he walked into Tesco in Lichfield Street, Walsall, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

Mr Edward Soulsby, prosecuting, said 42-year-old Goodwin was "obviously very drunk".

Security staff watched him on CCTV before deciding they would ask him to leave. Goodwin then fell asleep on a shelf. When he woke up, he produced the weapon and warned: "I will stab you. I have a knife."

Police were called and Goodwin, of Stafford Street, Walsall, admitted possession of a knife.

He was given a 26-week jail term, suspended for 18 months, and placed under supervision for 18 months by the court.

Pupils plant for a blooming good result

Pupils in Bloxwich have been part of the official launch of the town's regional leg of the national competition to find the best blooms.

It is the first time the town has entered the Heart of England in Bloom competition.

Youngsters from Green Rock Primary, Blakenall and Lower Farm Primary, Lower Farm took part in a tree planting project to get the campaign underway.

Traders have teamed up with Walsall Council's district centre management unit and the urban forestry team which helped with the schools' tree planting element of the entry.

The town will be judged in three categories horticultural achievement, environmental awareness and community involvement.

Nikki Rolls of Walsall Council, said: "This is the first year Bloxwich has entered the competition and everyone is hoping to make a real impression with the judges."

"It's great to see both these schools playing their part and I would like to hear from anyone else with suggestions for community projects. These can take a wide variety of forms from tree planting to painting and general tidying."

The Heart of England in Bloom competition annually attracts around 1,350 entries from small villages to cities. This year Aldridge, Brownhills, Bloxwich, Darlaston and Willenhall have entered.

Community groups, residents and organisations interested in offering their help with ideas and projects should contact the unit on 01922 652507.



Green Rock school pupils Kyle Edwards, aged 10, and Katie Wood, nine, plant some trees with Theo Bailhache from the urban forestry dept.

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Pensioners' placard protest



Teresa Cullen and Richard Worrall in Walsall town centre at the pensions protest

Placard carrying pensioners marched through Walsall town centre protesting against council cutbacks and calling for better pensions. About 20 members of Walsall's Pensioners' Convention were out in full force, distributing hundreds of leaflets in the town and climbing aboard buses to speak to passengers.

They spoke of their worries that budget cuts on services, such as Ring and Ride, would hit the pockets of vulnerable residents hardest.

They were joined by two members from Wolverhampton's Pensioners' Convention and students.

The group called for state pensions to be set above the poverty level and the right to a decent retirement period. Publicity officer Teresa Cullen said: "We are not only protesting for the pensioners, we are doing it for the young as well."

"The way it's going, young people will be in their coffins by the time they get pensions."

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People have their say over libraries review

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More than 2,000 people completed questionnaires and at least 640, via telephone interviews, had their say over the review of Walsall's libraries.

Campaigners have been protesting and petitioning about the borough's 16 libraries, fearing that they will fall victim to Walsall Council's £65 million cuts.

Council bosses have reassured residents no Walsall libraries will close in the next 12 months but the future is uncertain after that. The consultation came to a close on recently. It gave people the chance to air their views on the future of the service.

A total of 2,152 people filled in questionnaires and 643 residents shared their opinions in special phone interviews.

There were also meetings with local community and volunteers groups.

Helping

Keith Stone, assistant director for neighbourhoods, said: "I would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to give us their thoughts on the future direction for library services in Walsall."

"All the information we've received will be very useful in helping us decide how we move forward to ensure we provide a library service which meets the needs of both today's society and for generations to come."

Mr Stone said it was not the end of consultation and no decisions had been taken.

"It's an ongoing process and we will continue to involve residents in our decision making," he said. "If you didn't have your say this time round there will be opportunities in the future as we move forward."

Findings from the consultation will be reported to the decision-making cabinet in the summer.

Residents concerned that they will lose their local library in the future have handed in petitions about facilities in Pheasey, New Invention and Pleck, where there was also a protest attended by more than 100 people.

Council bosses have hinted that in the future, the running of a handful of libraries could be passed to community groups, schools or even churches.

Workshops have it rapped up

Guitar, rapping and DJ workshops hit a chord with pupils at a music taster day.

About 40 pupils, aged between seven and 14, from Lodge Farm Primary, County Bridge Primary, Bentley West Primary and Kings Charles Primary joined students from Willenhall School Sports College last week for the activity day held at the Furze-bank Way school.

It was organised through the college's Bentley Beat project, which has been running for more than a year after securing £30,000 of Youth Music funding.

Anthony Derrer, Willenhall School Sports College community manager, said: "We had funding for the project for two years to try to get more children engaged in music. This is why we've had this taster day and we're hoping to do more activities in the summer holidays."

"There's been rapping, DJ, guitar and computer music workshops."

Book helpers

Volunteers are being sought to encourage children in Walsall to read more. The Circus Stars Summer Reading Challenge needs volunteers aged 16 to 25 to spare a couple of hours a week for storytime sessions. Call 01922 659555.



Tamzin Phillips, aged 11, front, Niamh Cadman, 10 and Liam Broad, from Old Hall People's Partnership, take part in a DJ workshop

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Dudley Castle provided Robert Aston with the backdrop for his novel Jack O'Beans, which is set in the 13th century when the castle was a hive of activity

Hands-on history lesson helped author with novel



It was joining battle re-enactments by the Friends of Dudley Castle, like this one with Roger Richards, that helped Robert Aston's research

Robert Aston with his book Jack O'Beans, which he hopes will give people an insight into the medieval items and attractions dotted around the Black Country and get them looking into local history



An author is hoping to capture the imagination of the Black Country with his novel that delves into the history of Dudley Castle.

Robert Aston was inspired to write after attending a creative writing course at Dudley Library and has since published his first novel, Jack O'Beans.

It is set during the 13th century in the medieval age when Dudley Castle was a hive of activity. It tells the tale of Jack, a young boy who constantly finds himself in some sort of trouble.

The 72-year-old, of Oak Street, Coseley, describes Jack O'Beans as a logical version of Jack and the Bean Stalk and believes it should appeal locally as the book is based on real historical events which took place across the Black Country.

Robert was born in Oxford but returned

A creative writing course made Robert Aston realise he had a story. Now he has published his first book and tells **CHRIS FEEHAN** about it

to his Black Country roots when he moved to Dudley to live with his grandmother in 1948.

The author says: "A Dudley based company, John Thompsons, sent me to night school once a week and I decided I wanted to become the student of the year because I'd heard it meant I'd study at Cambridge University."

He won the award and spent a term there. "The experience changed me. I went from dunce to student and I decided I wanted to become an academic," he says.

Robert went to Birmingham University, where he obtained a degree, and continued to work there as a staff member until retirement. He then took up writing and attended the creative writing course.

He says: "It was a real eye opener I found myself on the course along with 12 women, it was there I realised everybody has a story

and every story deserved to be told."

Mr Aston sent a few episodes detailing Jack's adventures to the Black Country Bugle. The tales became a frequent feature and he decided to turn them into a book.

Robert began researching Middle English and participated in battle re-enactments held by the Friends of Dudley Castle on the castle grounds.

He says: "Joining the Friends of Dudley Castle has made writing the book a lot more hands on, you can really get a feel for the castle and it is amazing how much the other members know about the castle's history."

"There are so many medieval items and attractions dotted around the area and I hope my book will give people an insight into them and hopefully get them looking into our local history."

The book is available to buy from online book stores and some local book shops.

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Special bailiff team is on trail of horses

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

Specialist bailiffs have been employed to remove stray horses from two problem areas in Walsall, it was revealed today.

Open space in Great Bridge Road, Moxley, and George Rose Park in Darlaston will be targeted. Residents in the two areas have been plagued by stray horses roaming the streets, damaging football pitches and trampling gardens.

The animals have been a growing problem across the Black Country, with Dudley being the worst affected.

Council officers in Walsall met their counterparts in Dudley to seek advice on the best way to tackle the issue.

Graham Hood, Walsall Council head of greenspaces, said: "We had a very useful meeting with Dudley Council to discuss the approach they have adopted to tackle horses left to graze illegally."

"As a result we have commissioned a specialist bailiff company to remove horses from the two locations."

Warning

He added that notices had been placed at the two spots warning that horses will be impounded if left to graze.

Junior football matches had to be called off in January after stray horses damaged playing fields off Great Bridge Road.

And residents in Charnwood Close, Moxley, were woken in the early hours one morning when horses trampled through their gardens and fouled the street.

Walsall Council had already suggested plans to seize stray horses and charge owners to retrieve them.

Sandwell has also revealed plans to seize stray and illegally tethered horses after more than 50 were found roaming round Tipton.

In Dudley, horses have caused havoc on the roads.

And last week, an eight-year-old boy was dragged along the ground by a galloping stray horse near his home in Pensnett.

High Commissioner visits town

The Jamaican High Commissioner has paid a visit to Walsall to meet bosses and community leaders.

Anthony Johnson was the guest of Walsall's branch of aid agency Trelawny Overseas Relief Association during his visit.

He met Walsall's mayor, Councillor Gary Clarke, at the Council House, Lichfield Street before taking a tour of businesses.

This was followed by a reception at the African Caribbean Community Association, Wolverhampton Road.

Mr Johnson, aged 72, took up the London post last May after previously being Jamaica's ambassador to the US.

TORA chairman Moses Whyte said Walsall was among few places which manages to attract visits from foreign dignitaries.

Councillor Clarke said he was delighted to have met Mr Johnson.

He said: "We had a good discussion about Jamaica and England - and I found out there is a Darlaston in Jamaica."



Walsall's Mayor Gary Clarke and Jamaican High Commissioner Anthony Johnson exchange gifts

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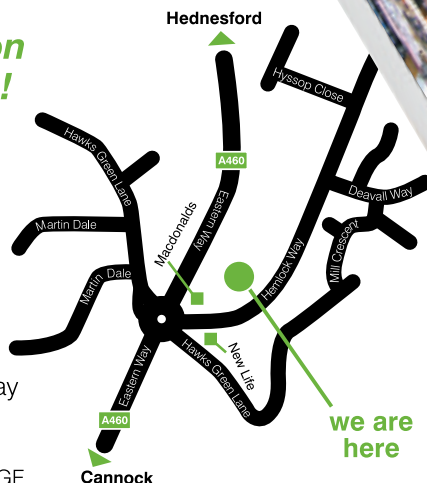
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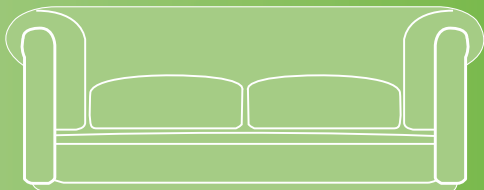
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Secondary school set for academy status

Another Walsall secondary is to become a new academy after school bosses won Government approval for the move.

Joseph Leckie Community Technology College, Walsall, is the latest school to go for academy status after a hard-fought battle to attract funds to rebuild the site.

After backing from the Secretary of State Michael Gove and the school's own governors it converts to academy status on September 1. The school will be aiming to offer more modern language courses.

Head Keith Whittlestone said after a consultation period with parents the move was backed by

walsallchronicle@expressandstar.co.uk

the board of governors at a meeting last month.

The Walstead Road West school has a pupil intake mainly from Delves and Palfrey in Walsall and from Yew Tree Estate in neighbouring Sandwell.

Mr Whittlestone said: "Under the previous Government it was the schools which were not doing so well which were given academy status, but now there are different types of academies.

Outstanding

"We can go ahead and convert without the need for a sponsor, which lends itself to schools like ours which have a 'good' to 'outstanding' rating."

He said the move would give the school greater

flexibility in the curriculum. They also believe there will be opportunities to provide more modern language courses while still covering many GCSE subjects. The uniform will not be changed.

The news comes as figures released last week showed almost one in eight mainstream secondary schools in the Black Country, Staffordshire and Birmingham is now an academy.

Around 13 per cent of secondary schools in the region have academy status.

Figures released by the Department for Education shows the region has 28 academies out of just under 220 secondary schools.

The number of academies in England has tripled since the coalition came to power less than a year ago. There are now 629 nationally, compared with 203 in May 2010.

Town hall could be sold off in cutbacks

An historic Black Country town hall could be sold off.

Darlaston Town Hall is being reviewed by council bosses in Walsall as part of a plan to sell off buildings and raise more than £7 million.

Council leader Mike Bird admitted there would be a "public outcry" if the Victorian landmark was eventually sold and encouraged people to "use it or lose it." Darlaston has already lost its market in the council's cost-cutting plans, saving the local authority £60,000.

Councillor Bird said no decision had been made on the town hall but nothing could be ruled out in the future.

"Obviously, no decision has been made yet," he said. "But we are carrying out a review of what buildings we no longer require and Darlaston Town Hall could be one of them. We need to

capitalise on our assets. There would be a public outcry if it went, everybody has a soft spot for Darlaston Town Hall. But unfortunately it is a case of use it or lose it. I would very much urge people to utilise the building.

"We don't know what shape local government will be in in two years' time but we know it will be very different."

"Obviously, council buildings have rates and bills to pay and a lot of money has been spent on Darlaston Town Hall. People need to use it."

The town hall officially reopened in June 2008 after a £325,000 makeover.

Council chiefs said they were keen for the building to be used for weddings but so far not a single ceremony has taken place.

Walsall Council, like Sandwell, needs to make big savings. Walsall needs to save £70m by 2015.

Getting to see what's on offer



The Know Your Town Roadshow with library staff Helen Danks and Naomi Jones.

Shoppers learned about everything Walsall has to offer thanks to roadshows.

The events Know Your Town visited district centres around the borough before finishing in Digbeth, Walsall town centre, at the weekend.

The week-long roadshow has taken in all the borough after being organised by Walsall Council's district centre management team.

Free children's activities were laid on including the towering Reach Up climbing frame.

There have also been information stands on employment and training opportunities to benefit advice and clubs for children.

Helen Kindon, team leader for district centres, said: "Our district centres have lots to offer and these roadshows are a great opportunity for people to find out more about what is available on their doorstep together with being an enjoyable family day out."

They have also taken place in Aldridge, Bloxwich, Willenhall, Brownhills and Darlaston.

Staff were also on hand to promote local businesses, inform people about voluntary and community organisations they can take advantage of and what leisure facilities are on offer.

Events also took place to clean up litter hotspots around the towns.

Co-op HQ opens but jobs will be lost

The Midlands Co-operative has opened the new headquarters for its travel business in Walsall in a move that has put a handful of jobs at risk.

Midcounties, which already occupied part of the ground floor of the building in Wolverhampton Street, has now taken over the whole site.

Midcounties also has an office in Bloxwich Road for 27 call centre staff, the majority will be relocated to the new base or asked to work from home.

Travel general manager Sue Reid said today: "We are in a period of formal consultation."

Street will hold party

A street in Walsall will be hosting one of just three official Royal Wedding parties in the area.

The event on Friday April 29, on Westbourne Street, The Butts, already has more than 120 people signed up to fill the Victorian terraced street for the occasion.

Three local bands will be providing music throughout the day. More than £600 of goodies have been donated from 20 local businesses.

Fears on 'rat-run' drivers

Drivers in Willenhall are speeding through a residential road and using it as a rat-run, prompting a council review. Transport bosses at Walsall Council are looking at whether Coppice Farm Way needs a pedestrian crossing.

People living nearby said they were afraid someone could get hurt.

They have asked for a zebra crossing to be installed near the walk-through from Grazewood Close, Hilbury Drive and Hollowcroft Road to allow them to feel safer moving about the area.

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Taking steppes away from the Hawthorns

Albion fan Kate on Russian TV

Black Country girl Kate Partridge has made her way from the stands of The Hawthorns to more than 200 million front rooms as a sports presenter on Russian channel RT. She speaks to ANDREW MCGILL



Kate – "I've always known that I would live in Russia"

YOU might not have heard of Kate Partridge. But for millions of Russians around the world, she is a household name. She grew up in the Black Country but has been a fixture on RT – the country's first English-language news channel Russia Today – for more than two years. Born in Sandwell General Hospital, Kate attended Kingswinford School and King Edward VI Sixth Form College in Stourbridge. She worked as a sports journalist for the Daily Mail, ITV and Chelsea TV before the opportunity to move to Russia came up in 2009.

She says: "I can't explain it but I've always known that, at some point, I would live in Russia – I even did Russian GCSE at night school."

"Moscow is a fascinating city and not as I'd imagined growing up in England. It never sleeps. There are so many shops and lots of clubs and bars are 24-hour or serve you until you leave. The ring road around the centre can have up to 16 lanes of traffic and is never quiet. There's also enough history, culture, architecture and beauty here to keep any connoisseur entertained."

"There's more English spoken than you might think; the street signs in the centre are written in English as well and there are global and western brands – not just McDonald's and Starbucks – everywhere." Kate, who is in her 30s, is a studio-based presenter at RT, hosting bulletins every two hours during the afternoon and evening news bulletin.

She also appears in a magazine show called Prime Time Russia every week night at 8pm as well as hosting live events, such as the announcement of Russia's winning 2018 World Cup bid. Kate says: "Our reporters go to major events like the Olympics and World Cup as well as following the Russian national football team. The Russians love sport – the biggest across the country are football and ice hockey." RT broadcasts from Moscow and Washington to 100 countries across five continents. More than 400 million viewers



From Russia, with love for the Baggies – Kate Partridge

have access to the channel, broadcast via 21 satellites and 176 cable networks, and can claim to have been seen in half those homes.

The wide reach means Kate's family – including her mother and step-father Jennie and Rob Grainger who live near Kidderminster – can easily keep up with her progress. She said: "Judging by the text messages, they definitely do watch me." Kate caught the bug for sport in the stands at The Hawthorns.

Young

She says: "I'm a West Brom fan because it is in the blood. I was born in West Bromwich, and my entire family and extended family has supported the club since it started out in 1878."

"It wouldn't have crossed my mind to support any other club – I think my father would have disowned me."

"I can't remember my first match as I was too young but I can just about remember being held up in the crowd for the day when Bryan Robson, Remi Moses and Ron Atkinson said goodbye to the Hawthorns before going to Manchester United. I'll never forget my first impression of The Hawthorns: the volume of people, the noise, the excitement, the banter, the tension – it was unlike anything I'd experienced. I thought it was brilliant, exciting and addictive. And that was before the football started."

Kate said keeping up with the Baggies' progress is rarely a problem in Moscow. She says: "There are numerous sports bars that receive satellite channels from around the world, so I have as much chance of watching West Brom here as I do in England."

"The Russians also love the English Premier League as well as watching their own and the other European football leagues, so I rarely miss a match unless I'm working." Kate is confident the Baggies will continue to thrive in the Premier League. She says: "If Albion continue playing the way they are, despite the nature of the bottom half of the Premier League, they should avoid the drop."

"Roy Hodgson officially joined West Brom on Valentine's Day – and he is definitely enjoying a love affair with the Baggies fans."



Baggies fan Kate Partridge, who was born in Sandwell General Hospital

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Merlin's Camelot magic comes to Warwick Castle

EASTER at Warwick Castle promises to be hot stuff with the arrival of a fire-breathing dragon.

A spellbinding new attraction, Merlin: The Dragon Tower will be the first experience inspired by the hit BBC TV family drama set in the age of Arthurian legend.

At the heart of the attraction is a magical mirror, which allows the bravest sorcerers to meet The Great Dragon. Merlin tells the story of a young wizard as he struggles to survive in a kingdom where magic is banned while protecting Camelot and helping Arthur to fulfil his true destiny. Merlin: The Dragon Tower gives visitors the chance to step into that magical world.

This Easter weekend (April 22-25) will see the castle grounds transformed into a Mediaeval Battle Scene, recreating the famous Battle of Barnet. Re-enactors will spend four days eating, sleeping and living on site. Castle visitors will be able to see how an encamped army would live, how they would cook, amuse themselves and prepare their weapons for battle. In honour of the royal wedding, the castle is conjuring up some of Britain's greatest monarchs to meet guests and regale them with tales. Among the guests will be King Henry VIII and Queens Elizabeth I and Victoria.



Castle's new attraction was inspired by the popular TV show Merlin, about the wizard's boyhood days

Throughout the Easter holidays, visitors can also catch the Warwick Warriors, who will showcase their arsenal of weapons, or watch the Raising of the Portcullis. Nikita the sea eagle and fellow birds of prey return for the spectacular Flight of the Eagles show, where guests will meet the resident falconer. Brave souls can experience The Castle Dungeon.

To find out more about Warwick Castle at Easter, visit www.warwick-castle.com or call 0871 265 2000.

Walk on the wild side with lemurs

WEST Midland Safari Park has opened the largest Lemur walk-through reserve in the country.

The new exhibit Walking with Lemurs consists of a natural woodland walk now home to Ring Tailed Lemur, White-Fronted Brown Lemur and Red Bellied Lemur, all natives of Madagascar.

Lemurs have free range of the woodland, which is



The safari park near Kidderminster is now home to lemurs

located in an area of the grounds landscaped by Capability Brown in the 1800s.

This is the first time that visitors to the park will be able to see and interact with this species, introduced for 2011.

There is a programme of daily talks and Lemur-themed activities. The new Lemur exhibit took seven months to complete and is part of a £1m investment in new attractions being launched this year.

Bob Lawrence, Director of Wildlife, said: "Lemur are fascinating animals that often display unusual behaviour that is both captivating and rather cheeky. They are habitual sunbathers and enjoy nothing more than finding a nice perch to while away an hour or so. When roused, part of their communication process can become somewhat theatrical too, particularly when they engage in stink fights by waving their scent-marked tail at an opponent."

West Midland Safari and Leisure Park is open daily, including Bank Holidays, up to Friday, November 4.

Walking with Lemurs included as part of the standard admission charge of £13.99 for adults, £11.99 for children. A family saver ticket costs £46.76, which admits two adults and two children. Admission also includes a free return ticket. Amusement rides are charged extra in all cases.

See www.wmsp.co.uk or telephone 01299 402114.

What a Wizard show

FOLLOW the yellow brick road to the London Palladium for a truly spectacular version of The Wizard of Oz.

The public's choice to play Dorothy, Danielle Hope, can never eclipse the movie's legendary star Judy Garland – who performed at the Palladium in her later years – but the Over The Rainbow TV series winner from Manchester won a standing ovation at the performance I attended. And quite rightly too because she sang superbly. Her Dorothy radiated a polite determination, even when faced by a wicked witch... and what a witch!

Hannah Waddingham's green, pointy-faced villain is a terrific ogre with Ken Dodd hair and a powerful singing voice heard on Red Shoe Blues, the best of four new songs from Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice that bolster the familiar Arlen and Harburg film songs. The scene when she suddenly appears above the stalls on her broomstick drew gasps from the audience.

Michael Crawford makes his long-overdue return to the West End to play the dual roles of Professor Marvel and the Wizard, singing new song Wonders of the World.

Dorothy's three companions are Paul Keating as a floppy, Mickey Mouse-voiced Scarecrow; tap-dancing Tin Man Edward Baker-Duly; and David Ganly as a gay Lion, who is proud to be "a friend of Dorothy" as the euphemism goes. The fourth companion is, of course, Toto, who was played by a well-behaved terrier. The cast may have their hands full when miniature schnauzer 'Dangerous Dave', the TV audience's choice for the role joins the cast this month.

But the biggest impact of this show is its rainbow coloured glitz, glamour and special effects. It begins with a holographic tornado that whisks Dorothy off to Munchkinland. Gorgeous sets unfold from the recently restored Palladium's revolving stage. The Emerald City is an art deco dreamland and the witch's castle is an Eiffel Tower-like rotunda. This trip beyond the rainbow will live long in the memory.

Leon Burakowski



From Phantom to Wizard of Oz, Michael Crawford is reunited with Andrew Lloyd Webber to perform alongside newcomer Danielle Hope at the London Palladium. Right: The Wicked Witch of the West (Hannah Waddingham) in her lair. Below: Emerald City in the Merry Old Land of Oz. Pictures: Keith Pattison

The Wizard of Oz is performed every evening from Tuesday to Saturday and has matinees on Saturday, Sunday and Wednesday. For tickets call 0844 412 2957.



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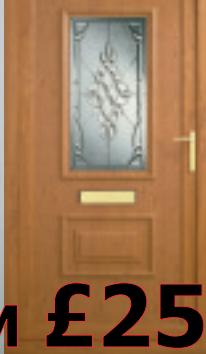


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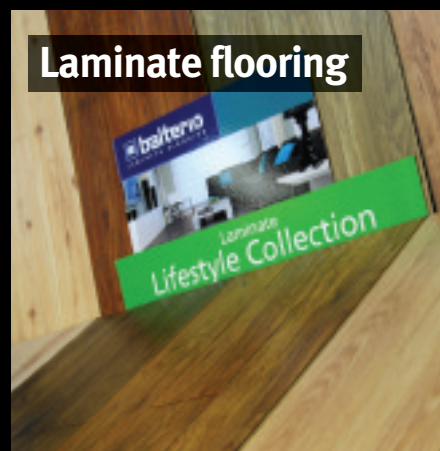
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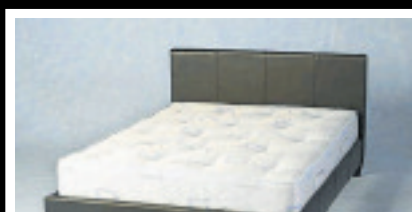
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the pulse

We will rock you, say Brian and Kerry as they launch tour

QUEEN guitarist Brian May and showbiz singing star Kerry Ellis, who first found fame creating the role of Meat in the hit West End musical *We Will Rock You*, are joining forces on tour.

It follows the singer's debut album *Anthems*, which was produced by and featured the superstar rock guitarist.

Kerry, who has also played Elphaba in *Wicked*

and Nancy in *Oliver!* on the London stage, included revamped versions of *Defying Gravity* and *I'm Not That Girl* from *Wicked* and eight May songs on the album.

They will be appearing together in *Anthems The Concert* at Birmingham's Symphony Hall on Monday, May 9. Call the ticket hotline on 0121 780 3333 or visit the www.thsh.co.uk website.



TV listings start
- page 36

**YOUR EIGHT-PAGE
ENTERTAINMENT
GUIDE AND WEEK'S
TV VIEWING**



Theatre and show round-up - page 35



Reviews and guides - page 40

Wiz of a role for X Factor's Treyc

She's famous for being a finalist in the UK's biggest talent search.

Now, Treyc Cohen will be centre stage once again playing the role of Dorothy in the award-winning musical *The Wiz* in Birmingham this summer.

The *Wiz* is a wonderful soul musical based on *The Wizard of Oz*. Having premiered on Broadway in the 70s.

It then went on to become a cult movie by Motown Productions in 1978 starring Diana Ross, Michael Jackson and Richard Pryor.

And Treyc is thrilled to be making her first appearance in

a musical: The former Wolverhampton University music student says: "On the X Factor I was singing in front of millions of viewers every week, but I can't wait to be singing live in front of an audience every night."

"You get so much back from people; it's the best feeling in the world."

Auditions

"The *Wiz* is a fabulous musical and so this really is a dream come true for me."

Tamworth-born Treyc entered the X-Factor for the first time in 2009 and got as far as the boot camp auditions at Simon Cowell's house but didn't make it through to the live finals. However, she

returned stronger and more determined in 2010 and was chosen from thousands as Cheryl Cole's 'wild card' over 25s act.

Having got through to the final 16 performers for the live final, Treyc was eliminated during a sing-off with controversial contestant Katie Waissal.

The *Wiz* will open in Birmingham at the New Alexandra Theatre from 10 to 18 June.

Tickets are available on 0844 871 3011 or at newalexandratheatre.co.uk.

The *Wiz* is part of Birmingham Repertory Theatre's 2011 off-site season as the theatre undergoes development as part of the new Library of Birmingham.



Former Wolverhampton music student and X Factor contestant Treyc Cohen

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West Midlands Safari Park 9.00 depart includes admission prices from £14.75 - £15.75 return from safari park @ 17.30

Easter Monday 25th April
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Llandudno 9.00 am depart all seats £12.00
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Blackpool 9.00 am depart all seats £12.00
return from Blackpool @ 17.30

Drayton Manor 9.00 am depart all seats £7.00 return from Drayton Manor @ 17.00 (does not include admission)

Twycross depart 9.00 am Includes admission, prices from £16.00 - £20.00 return from Twycross @ 16.30

Saturday 30th April
Blackpool 9.00 am depart, 17.30 return
York 9.00 am depart, 17.30 return

Sunday 1st May
Whitby 8.00 am depart, 17.30 return
Skegness 8.00 am depart, 17.30 return

Monday 2nd May
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The cast of David Simpson's play *The Naked Truth*, which is about a group of women taking up a pole-dancing fitness course, will be at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre

Never mind the spoof, Phill is Spamalot's star



Todd Carty - Patsy in Spamalot

COMEDIAN Phill Jupitus, best known for his regular appearances on *Never Mind The Buzzcocks* and *QI*, will be taking on a regal air when he plays King Arthur in Monty Python's *Spamalot* at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

It's not Phill's first experience treading the boards, he dragged up to play Edna Turnblad in *Hairspray* in the West End.

Hit musical *Spamalot*, written by former Wolverhampton schoolboy Eric Idle, is a combination of favourite sketches from Monty Python and *The Holy Grail* and songs spoofing the conventions of musical theatre.

Other members of the cast include former EastEnders' Todd Carty as put-upon servant Patsy, Jessica Martin as the showbiz diva Lady

of the Lake and former Avenue Q star Simon Lipkin as Sir Galahad. It runs from Monday to the following Saturday.

Meanwhile, kids' favourite double act The Chuckle Brothers give Harry Potter the Chuckle treatment in Barry Potty and his Full Blood Brother Paul in *The Ghostly Shadows* at the Grand on Saturday and Sunday.

Fitness

The legend lives on in Michael Jackson tribute show *Thriller Live* at Birmingham Hippodrome, which features Birmingham singer Hayley Evetts, on until April 30.

David Simpson's play about a group of women taking up a pole-dancing fitness course, *The Naked Truth*, is at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre on Tuesday and Wednesday, April 26 and

27. The cast includes Leanne Jones, the award-winning star of *Hairspray*, alongside Maureen Nolan, Sarah White and Nikki Sanderson.

Claire Sweeney sings *Take That Look Off Your Face* and new song *Dreams Never Run On Time* in the revamped version of Andrew Lloyd Webber and Don Black's *Tell Me On A Sunday* at Stoke's Regent Theatre from Tuesday to Saturday.

Jonathan Slinger follows in the footsteps of some of the greatest actors of Shakespeare when he takes on the role of Macbeth at the re-opened Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Michael Boyd's production opened last week and will remain in repertoire at Stratford until October 6.

Comedy highlights include Milton Jones at the New Alex on Saturday and Mark Thomas has sold out his Slade Rooms gig in Wolverhampton on Wednesday, April 27.

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Saturday TV

BBC1

6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen Live. 11.30 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 11.45 Football Focus. 12.30 Match of the Day Live. Cardiff City v Queens Park Rangers (Kick-off 12.45pm). 3.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second round continues in Sheffield. 4.30 Final Score. 5.10 BBC News; Regional News; Weather. 5.25 Don't Scare the Hare.

6.00 Doctor Who.

6.45 So You Think You Can Dance. The contestants perform in couples for the first time, hoping to impress the judges and win valuable viewers' votes as one boy and one girl will be eliminated from the competition. The results can be seen at 8.50pm.

8.00 The National Lottery: Who Dares Wins. New series. Game show in which strangers pair up to win money.

8.50 So You Think You Can Dance. The dancers with the lowest vote perform again.

9.20 Casualty. The truth about Warren's death is revealed.

10.10 BBC News; Weather. 10.30 Match of the Day. Including highlights of Manchester United v Everton; National Lottery Update.

11.50 The Football League Show. Highlights of today's games; Weatherview.

1.20 BBC News.

BBC2

6.00 CBeebies. 7.10 CBBC. 12.00 Film: Spirited Away. (2002) Animated fantasy, with the voice of Daveigh Chase. 2.00 Being Alice - Adventures in Wonderland. 2.30 Alice's Adventures in Wonderland. 4.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Further second-round coverage from Sheffield. 5.30 Flot II (R)

6.30 Dad's Army. The hapless soldiers tackle a fire. (R)

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Second-round coverage from Sheffield.

8.00 Gardeners' World. An hour-long Easter edition of the show.

9.00 The Belfast Blitz. On the 70th anniversary of the raids, people who lived through the German bombing campaign talk about the horror they witnessed and the damage the city suffered.

10.00 Rhod Gilbert's Work Experience. The comedian joins the fire brigade. Last in the series. (R)

10.30 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. Chris Addison and Sarah Millican join the presenter in Norwich.

11.00 Nurse Jackie. The nurse evades O'Hara's questions about her fake MRI.

11.30 Later with Jools Holland. (R)

12.30 Snooker: The World Championship. 1.20 Snooker Extra. 2.40 Close.

ITV1 Wales

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. 7.25 CITV. 9.25 Coronation Street. 11.45 This Morning: Saturday. 12.45 Monk. 1.45 ITV News; Weather. 1.50 Film: Arthur 2: On the Rocks. (1988) Comedy sequel, starring Dudley Moore. 4.00 You've Been Framed! (R) 4.30 ITV Wales News; Weather. 4.45 ITV News; Weather. 5.00 March of the Dinosaurs.

7.00 Sing if You Can. Sheila Ferguson, Ricky Groves and Brenda Edwards take on Gemma Merna, Shaun Williamson and Matt Stevens in the celebrity singing challenge. Keith Lemon and Stacey Solomon present.

8.00 Britain's Got Talent. Ant and Dec host as judges Amanda Holden, Michael McIntyre and David Hasselhoff continue their search for the nation's most impressive performers.

9.00 Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Patsy Palmer. The EastEnders actress talks about her career and personal life.

10.00 ITV News; Weather. 10.15 Film: Along Came Polly. (2004) Romantic comedy, with Ben Stiller and Jennifer Aniston.

11.50 The Cube: Celebrity Special. Kelly Holmes and Jenni Falconer try to win money for charity. (R)

12.45 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.50 Swintown. (R) 3.35 ITV Nightscreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

S4C

7.00 Clwb Cyw. 9.00 Stwnsh Sadwrn. 11.00 Y Lle Gwisgo. (R) 11.30 Diwrnod Mawr y Plant. (R) 12.00 Teithiau Tramor Iolo. (R) 12.30 Pethu. (R) 1.00 Byw yn yr Ard. (R) 1.30 Mwy am Lai. (R) 2.00 O Gymru Fach. Welsh goods being used in Dubai. (R) 3.00 Sgorio. Port Talbot Town v Bangor City (Kick-off 3.45pm). 5.55 Newyddion a Chwaraeon.

6.10 Y Clwb Rygbi. Ospreys v Munster (Kick-off 6.30pm).

8.30 Ar Gamera. 9.30 Sopranos: Y Pasg. 10.30 Sioe Tudur Owen. (R) 11.15 Ddwe am Ddeg. (R)

12.20 Ddwe.

Channel 4: As S4C except: 6.00 The Treacle People. (R) 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 7.00 FIM Superbike World Championship. (R) 7.30 British Formula 3 International Series. 7.55 The Morning Line. 8.55 T4: Friends. (R) 9.25 T4: Koko Pop. 9.55 T4: Arthur: T4 Movie Special. 10.25 T4: Glee. 11.25 T4: Great British Hairdresser. 12.25 T4: The Big Bang Theory. (R) 1.25 That Paralympic Show. 1.55 Channel 4 Racing. 4.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.30 Channel 4 News. 6.55 4thought.tv. 7.00 River Cottage Best Bites. (R) 8.00 Meet the Middletons. (R) 9.00 The Million Pound Drop Live. 10.20 Stand Up for the Week. 11.05 Film: Rising Sun. (1993) 1.25 Mesh. (R) 1.40 The Sex Education Show: Stop Pimping Our Kids. (R) 2.35 Coming Up: The Future Wags of Great Britain. (R) 3.05 Running in Heels. (R) 4.10 Ugly Betty. (R) 4.55 Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) 5.20-6.05 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5

6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 How Do They Do It? (R) 10.30 The Gadget Show. (R) 11.30 Essex Jungle. (R) 12.35 Film: Slappy and the Stinkers. (1998) Teen comedy adventure, starring BD Wong. 2.05 Film: Tinker Bell. (2008) Premiere. Animated adventure, with the voice of Mae Whitman. 3.35 Film: Hook. (1991) Peter Pan adventure, starring Robin Williams.

6.25 5 News Weekend. 6.30 NCIS. (R) 7.20 NCIS. Part two of two. Gibbs goes after Ari. (R)

8.10 CSI: Grissom's Greatest. The team is assigned to investigate the apparent kidnapping of a baby from a wealthy Las Vegas family, but Grissom struggles to maintain an air of professional detachment. (R)

9.10 CSI: Miami. Horatio returns from Rio to lead the hunt for missing team-mate Calleigh, who has been kidnapped by a criminal duo hoping to use her crime-scene expertise to cover their tracks. (R)

10.10 CSI: NY. The detectives investigate the death of a conspiracy-obsessed woman.

11.10 CSI: Crime Scene Investigation. (R)

12.05 SuperCasino. 4.00 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 4.10 Nick's Quest. (R) 4.35 HouseBusters. (R) 5.00 Hana's Helpline. (R) 5.10 The Milkshake! Show. (R) 5.35 Thomas & Friends. (R) 5.45 Roary the Racing Car. (R)

Digital

ITV2
3.30 Britain's Got More Talent 4.30 American Idol 7.00 Fiddles, Cheats & Scams 8.00 Help! I Caught It Abroad 2 9.00 Britain's Got More Talent 10.00 Celebrity Juice 10.45 Film: American Pie 2 (2001)

ITV3
3.35 Film: On the Buses (1971) 5.25 Film: Mutiny on the Buses (1972) 7.15 Film: Holiday on the Buses (1973) 9.00 Film: Carry On Cleo (1964) Comedy, starring Sid James. 11.00 Film: Up Pompeii (1971)

ITV4
3.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket. Delhi Daredevils v Kings XI Punjab. 7.30 British Touring Car Championship Highlights 9.00 Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors 10.00 Film: Smokin' Aces (2006)

BBC THREE
7.00 Doctor Who Confidential 7.45 Top Gear 9.00 Film: Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom (1984) 10.55 Russell Howard's Good News Extra 11.40 Family Guy

BBC FOUR
7.00 Yellowstone 8.00 If Walls Could Talk: The History of the Home 9.00 Spiral 10.50 Twenty Twelve 11.20 Top of the Pops: 1976 11.50 Secrets of the Arabian Nights

E4
1.25 Hollyoaks 4.00 Make It or Break It 5.00 Friends 6.00 Glee 7.00 The Big Bang Theory 8.00 How I Met Your Mother 9.00 50 Greatest Wedding Shockers 11.05 The 50 Funniest Moments 2010

FILM4
2.50 Shane (1953) 5.10 Time Bandits (1981) 7.25 P'Tang Yang Kipperbang (1982) 9.00 No Country for Old Men (2007). Thriller, starring Josh Brolin, Tommy Lee Jones and Javier Bardem. 11.20 Carrie (1976)

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ITV1

Channel 4

Channel 5

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PERSPECTIVES: LOOKING FOR LOWRY

ITV1, 10.15pm

The South Bank Show is no more, but documentary lovers needn't worry – here's a new series to get your teeth into. Unlike its Melvyn Bragg-hosted predecessor, Perspectives won't focus only on the arts, but instead will feature a wide variety of subjects. Nevertheless, it kicks off with a focus on Laurence Stephen Lowry who is, without doubt, one of Britain's most famous painters. Ian McKellen hosts the programme, which takes a fresh look at Lowry through the eyes of those who knew him and by visiting some of the places he knew best.

6.00 Breakfast. **7.35** Match of the Day. (R) **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Easter Day Eucharist from Salisbury Cathedral. **11.00** Urbi et Orbi. **11.35** The Story of Jesus. **12.35** BBC News: Weather. **12.45** Regional Programme. **1.30** Film: Mary Poppins. (1964) Disney musical fantasy, starring Julie Andrews, Dick Van Dyke, Glynis Johns and David Tomlinson. **3.45** Life of Riley. (R) **4.15** Life of Riley. (R) **4.45** Lifetime. **4.55** Points of View. **5.10** Songs of Praise. **5.45** BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

6.15 Land Girls. Bea falls for an Italian PoV. (R)

7.00 Countryfile. Matt Baker and Julia Bradbury report on the latest rural developments. Including Weather for the Week Ahead.

8.00 Antiques Roadshow. From Winchester Cathedral.

9.00 Britain's Royal Weddings. Conclusion. How traditions have changed in recent years.

10.00 BBC News: Regional News; Weather.

10.25 Bee Gees: In Our Own Time. The band discusses their career.

11.25 TOTP2: Bee Gees Special. The Bee Gees talk about and perform some of their favourite tracks. (R)

12.10 The Graham Norton Show. (R) Weatherview. **1.00** Sign Zone: Britain's Royal Weddings. (R) **2.00** Holby City. (R) **3.00** The Baby Born in a Concentration Camp. (R) **3.30** BBC News.

6.00 CBeebies. **8.05** CBBC. **10.00** Something for the Weekend. **11.30** MasterChef. (R) **12.30** EastEnders. **2.25** Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second sessions of two second-round matches. **5.45** Easter from King's – Passiontide to Easter Day.

7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. Rishi Persad presents further coverage from the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield.

7.45 Top Gear Bolivia. Clarkson, Richard Hammond and James May drive 4x4s from the rainforest of the Amazon basin to the coast of Chile, tackling one of the world's most dangerous roads on the way. (R)

9.00 United. Drama based on the story of the 1958 Munich air crash which claimed the lives of 23 people, including eight Manchester United players. Starring David Tennant and Jack O'Connell.

10.35 Match of the Day 2. Colin Murray presents highlights of the day's only Premier League match, which saw Bolton Wanderers welcome Arsenal to the Reebok Stadium.

11.25 Snooker: The World Championship.

12.15 Snooker Extra. **2.15** BBC News. **3.30** The Super League Show. **4.15** Close.

6.00 CITV: Mini CITV. **7.25** CITV. **9.25** May the Best House Win. (R) **10.25** Sing if You Can. (R) **11.25** This Morning. Sunday. **12.25** Dinner Date. (R) **1.25** ITV News: Weather. **1.30** Film: Columbo: Try and Catch Me. (1977) Crime drama, starring Peter Falk. **3.00** Britain's Got Talent. (R) **4.00** Film: Charlie and the Chocolate Factory. (2005) Children's fantasy, starring Johnny Depp.

6.05 Regional Programmes. **6.15** ITV News: Weather.

6.30 The Cube. Two more contestants take up the challenge.

7.30 Coronation Street. Sean heads to London for Easter, while Todd returns to Weatherfield.

8.00 Lewis. When a woman is murdered, it appears to be a blackmail plot gone wrong, but as the body count rises, Lewis realises an old secret lies at the heart of the case. Last in the series.

10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather.

10.15 Perspectives: Looking for Lowry. Ian McKellen examines the life of artist LS Lowry.

11.15 Flight of Faith: The Jesus Story. A journey through the life of Christ. (R)

12.15 Premiership Rugby Union. **1.00** The Zone; ITV News Headlines. **2.00** Film: Yu-Gi-Oh! (2004) Animated adventure, with the voices of Dan Green, Eric Stuart and Scottie Ray. **3.30** ITV Nightseries. **5.30** ITV Morning News.

6.05 Sall Mali. (R) **6.10** The Hoobs. (R) **6.35** The Hoobs. (R) **7.00** The Grid. **7.30** Freeports on 4. **7.55** T4: Friends. (R) **8.25** T4: Friends. (R) **9.00** T4: Hollyoaks. **11.30** T4: Being N-Dubz in America and Beyond. (R) **12.00** T4: Example: Video Exclusive. **12.05** T4: Glee. (R) **1.05** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **1.35** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.05** T4: The Simpsons. (R) **2.40** Film: Home Alone 3. (1997) Comedy sequel, starring Alex D. Linz. **4.35** Deal or No Deal. **5.30** Time Team.

6.30 Channel 4 News.

6.55 4thought.tv. A Roman Catholic considers the importance of Easter.

7.00 Come Dine with Me. Four contestants do battle in Southampton.

8.00 The Hotel. A troublesome toilet causes chaos at a wedding.

9.00 Country House Rescue. A Welsh stately home owner struggles to cope with her debts.

10.00 FILM: Elizabeth. (1998) Elizabeth I's rise to the throne is threatened as enemies within the court and overseas plot to bring about her downfall. Historical drama, with Cate Blanchett and Geoffrey Rush.

12.20 Film: The Japanese Wife. (2010) Premiere. Drama, starring Rahul Bose. **2.10** Strictly Lady Sumo. (R) **3.05** Secret Life of the Classroom. (R) **4.00** Leaving Home at 8. (R) **4.55** Wogan's Perfect Recall. (R) **5.20** Countdown. (R)

6.00 Milkshake! Peppa Pig. **6.05** Roary the Racing Car. (R) **6.15** Fill and the Flowerlots. (R) **6.25** Fireman Sam. (R) **6.40** Miss Spider's Sunny Patch Friends. (R) **6.50** The Beeps. (R) **7.00** Mio Mao. (R) **7.10** Chiro. (R) **7.15** Harry and His Bucket Full of Dinosaurs. (R) **7.30** Noddy in Toyland. (R) **7.40** Hana's Helpline. (R) **7.55** Little Princess. (R) **8.05** Milkshake Monkey. (R) **8.10** The Adventures of Bottle Top Bill and His Best Friend Corky. (R) **8.25** Family! (R) **8.30** The Mr Men Show. (R) **8.50** Thomas & Friends. (R) **10.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **10.15** K-9. **10.50** OK! TV Sunday. **11.50** Family Food Fight. (R) **12.20** The Hotel Inspector. (R) **1.25** Film: Genghis Khan. (1965) Historical adventure, starring Omar Sharif. **3.55** Film: William & Kate. (2011) Premiere. Fact-based drama, with Nico Evers-Swindell and Camilla Luddington. **5.45** 5 News Weekend. **5.55** Film: Bewitched. (2005) Romantic fantasy comedy, with Nicole Kidman.

7.50 FILM: Ghostbusters. (1984) Supernatural comedy, with Bill Murray, Dan Aykroyd and Sigourney Weaver.

10.00 The Walking Dead. Rick embarks on a perilous rescue mission.

11.05 FILM: Pacific Heights. (1990) Psychological thriller, starring Michael Keaton.

1.00 SuperCasino. **4.00** Animal Rescue Squad. (R) **4.10** Divine Designs. (R) **5.00** Hana's Helpline. (R) **5.10** The Milkshake! Show. (R) **5.35** Thomas & Friends. (R) **5.45** Roary the Racing Car. (R)

ITV2

4.30 Britain's Got Talent **5.30** Britain's Got More Talent **6.30** The Only Way Is Essex **8.00** Kerry Katona – The Next Chapter **9.00** Piers Morgan's Life Stories: Patsy Palmer **10.00** The Only Way Is Essex **10.45** Film: The Whole Ten Yards (2004)

ITV3

3.25 Film: Are You Being Served? (1977) **5.20** Film: George and Mildred: The Movie (1980) **7.15** Film: On the Buses (1971) **9.00** Film: Carry On Camping (1969) **11.00** Film: Steptoe and Son (1972)

ITV4

11.00 Live Indian Premier League Cricket **8.00** Premiership Rugby Union **9.00** Film: Red Heat (1988) **11.05** Jean-Claude Van Damme: Behind Closed Doors

BBC THREE

7.00 Film: Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade (1989) **9.00** Police Academy UK **10.00** Family Guy **10.45** American Dad! **11.30** White Van Man

BBC FOUR

7.00 Film: History of Christianity **8.00** Vatican: The Hidden World **9.00** Holst – In the Bleak Midwinter **11.20** Timeshift: The Golden Age of Coach Travel

E4

3.00 Make It or Break It **4.00** Film: Crocodile Dundee (1986) **6.00** Friends **7.00** 90210 **7.55** Friends **9.00** Desperate Housewives **11.00** Being Erica **11.55** The 100 Greatest Stand Ups 2010

FILM4

3.05 The Day the Earth Stood Still (1951) **4.50** Napoleon Dynamite (2004) **6.40** Chariots of Fire (1981) **9.00** Dogma (1999). Comedy fantasy, starring Matt Damon and Ben Affleck. **11.20** Fight Club (1999)

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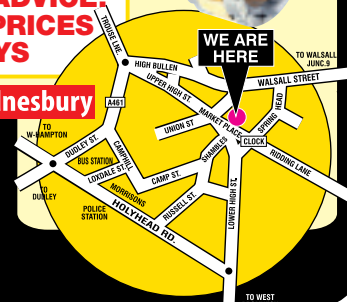
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Monday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.00 When Royals Wed. 9.45 Homes Under the Hammer. (R) 10.45 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.30 Cash in the Attic. 12.00 Bargain Hunt. (R) 12.45 BBC News. 1.05 Regional News; Weather. 1.15 Film: Muppet Treasure Island. (1996) Musical puppet comedy, with Tim Curry. 2.45 Film: Chicken Run. (2000) Animated comedy, with the voices of Mel Gibson and Julia Sawalha. 4.05 Film: Bee Movie. (2007) Animated comedy, with the voice of Jeff Bridges. 5.30 EastEnders: BBC News; Celebrity Special. 2. 6.30 BBC News. 6.50 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 Bang Goes the Theory. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 9.00 MasterChef: The Final Three. 10.00 BBC News. 10.10 Regional News; Weather. 10.15 QI. 10.45 A Question of Sport. 11.15 The Football League Show; Weatherview. 12.40 Sign Zone. Britain's Royal Weddings. (R) 1.40 Arctic with Bruce Parry. (R) 2.40 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 3.10 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Animal Park. (R) 1.00 Badminton Horse Trials. Live coverage of the final day from Gloucestershire. 3.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The conclusion of two second-round matches. 4.30 Final Score. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second sessions of the opening two quarter-finals. 8.00 Britain's Next Big Thing. 9.00 A History of Celtic Britain. 10.00 Later Live - with Jools Holland. 10.30 Newsnight; Super League Show. The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.30 The 2011. 9.00 Arena: Produced by George Martin. 10.30 Ruth Jones' Easter Treat. (R) 11.15 Film: A Hard Day's Night. (1964) Musical comedy, starring the Beatles. 12.40 Snooker. The World Championship. 1.30 Snooker Extra. 3.30 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 Dinner Date. (R) 10.20 This Morning: Easter. 11.15 Loose Women. 12.00 Film: The Borrowers. (1997) Children's fantasy, starring John Goodman. 1.40 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 Inspector Morse. (R) 4.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.15 ITV News; Weather. 6.30 You've Been Framed! (R) 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 Coronation Street. 8.00 The Dales. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 The Suspicions of Mr Whicher. 11.00 ITV News; Weather. 11.15 This is Michael Buble. 12.15 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.15 UEFA Champions League Weekly. 2.50 ITV Nightgreen. 4.30 The Jeremy Kyle Show. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.05 The Hoobs. (R) 6.30 Freshly Squeezed. 7.20 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.45 Frasier. (R) 8.15 Friends. (R) 8.40 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.35 Seven Ages of Britain. (R) 10.35 Film: The Ten Commandments. (1956) Biblical epic, starring Charlton Heston. 2.40 Baking Mad with Eric Lahti. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: The Wombats: Live in London. 12.35 Poker. 1.30 The Sex Education Show: Stop Pimping Our Kids. (R) 2.20 Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World. (R) 3.15 The SS. (R) 4.05 Warlords. (R) 5.00 Codex. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Lunchtime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (1961) 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 6.55 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 7.00 Police Interceptors; 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show; 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Hotel Inspector. 10.00 Extraordinary People: The World's Heaviest Man Gets Married. (R) 11.00 Film: Buster. (1989) 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Tuesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 When Royals Wed. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders: BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Holly City. 9.00 MasterChef: The Final Three. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 The Prison Restaurant. 11.25 The Lock Up. (R) 11.55 Film: Hunt for Justice. (2005) Fact-based drama, starring Wendy Crewson; Weatherview. 1.30 Sign Zone. Michel Roux's Service. (R) 2.30 23 Week Babies: The Price of Life. (R) 3.30 Great British Railway Journeys. (R) 4.00 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.35 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening day of quarter-finals. 5.15 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second sessions of the opening two quarter-finals. 8.00 Britain's Next Big Thing. 9.00 A History of Celtic Britain. 10.00 Later Live - with Jools Holland. 10.30 Newsnight; Super League Show. The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.30 The 2011. 9.00 Arena: Produced by George Martin. 10.30 Ruth Jones' Easter Treat. (R) 11.15 Film: A Hard Day's Night. (1964) Musical comedy, starring the Beatles. 12.40 Snooker. The World Championship. 1.30 Snooker Extra. 3.30 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 6.45 Regional News; Weather. 6.55 Regional News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 UEFA Champions League. 8.00 Countrywide. 9.00 When Kate Met William: A Tale of Two Lives. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Film: Parenthood. (1989) Comedy drama, starring Steve Martin. 12.50 The Zone; ITV News Headlines. 2.50 Crossing Jordan. 3.40 ITV Nightgreen. 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 10.55 A Place by the Sea. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Make Do & Mend. 12.35 Make Do & Mend. 1.05 The TV Book Club. (R) 1.15 Film: Sword of Sherwood Forest. (1960) Robin Hood adventure, starring Richard Greene. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: The Wombats: Live in London. 12.35 Poker. 1.30 The Sex Education Show: Stop Pimping Our Kids. (R) 2.20 Empire: How Britain Made the Modern World. (R) 3.15 The SS. (R) 4.05 Warlords. (R) 5.00 Codex. (R) 5.45 Yo Gabba Gabba! (R)

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Wednesday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 When Royals Wed. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Escape to the Country. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. (R) 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 DIY SOS: The Big Build; BBC News; Regional News. 8.30 Life of Riley. 9.00 MasterChef: The Final Three. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 National Lottery Wednesday Night Draws. 10.45 Would I Lie to You? (R) 11.15 Film: Casanova. (2005) Romantic period drama, with Heath Ledger and Sienna Miller. National Lottery Update; Weatherview. 1.05 Sign Zone: See Hear. 1.35 Watchdog. 2.35 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 3.05 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.30 Daily Politics. 1.00 See Hear. 1.30 Lifeline. (R) 1.40 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the first semi-final. 5.10 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 5.55 Party Election Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The remaining two quarter-finals are set to be decided. 8.00 Giles & Sue's Royal Wedding. 9.00 The Crimson Petal and the White. 10.00 The Victorians. 10.30 Newsnight; Weather. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 UEFA Champions League. 8.00 Countrywide. 9.00 When Kate Met William: A Tale of Two Lives. 10.00 ITV News at Ten; Weather. 10.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 UEFA Champions League. 11.00 Newsnight. 11.20 Snooker: The World Championship. 12.10 Snooker Extra. 2.10 BBC News. 3.05 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

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Thursday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 9.15 When Royals Wed. 10.00 Homes Under the Hammer. BBC News; Weather. 11.00 Don't Get Done. Get Dom. 11.45 Cash in the Attic; BBC News; Weather. 12.15 Bargain Hunt. (R) 1.00 BBC News; Weather. 1.30 Regional News; Weather. 1.45 Doctors. 2.15 Doctors. 2.45 Nigel Slater's Simple Suppers. 3.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 3.05 CBBC. 5.15 Weakest Link. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 6.55 Party Election Broadcast. (R) 7.00 The One Show. 7.30 EastEnders: BBC News; Regional News. 8.00 Watchdog. 9.00 Rock & Chips. 10.00 BBC News. 10.25 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 11.15 This Week; Holiday Weatherview. 12.05 Sign Zone: Too Fast to Be a Woman? The Story of Casler Semenyi. (R) 12.55 Countryfile. (R) 1.55 Antiques Roadshow. (R) 2.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 CBeebies. 7.00 CBBC. 8.30 CBeebies. 11.40 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 12.00 Daily Politics. 12.30 GMT with George Alagiah. 1.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the first semi-final. 5.10 Put Your Money Where Your Mouth Is. 5.55 Party Election Broadcast. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The second semi-final gets under way at the Crucible Theatre in Sheffield. 9.00 Sir Bobby Charlton: Football icon. 10.00 Never Mind the Buzzcocks. The World Championship. 12.10 BBC News. 2.55 Close. 4.00 BBC Learning Zone.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 Lorraine. 9.25 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 10.30 This Morning. 12.30 Loose Women. 1.30 ITV News; Weather. 1.55 Regional News; Weather. 2.00 60 Minute Makeover. 3.00 The Alan Titchmarsh Show. 3.59 Regional Weather. 4.00 Midsomer Murders. (R) 5.00 Britain's Best Dish. 6.00 Regional News; Weather. 6.25 Party Election Broadcast. 6.30 ITV News; Weather. 7.00 Emmerdale. 7.30 William and Kate: In Their Own Words. 8.00 Emmerdale. 8.30 Coronation Street. 9.00 Regional News; Weather. 9.15 Regional News; Weather. 9.30 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Piers Morgan's Live Stories: Patsy Palmer. (R) 11.35 Caroline Quentin: A Passage Through India. (R) 12.30 The Zone: ITV News Headlines. 2.25 Nightwatch with Steve Scott: Crime. (R) 3.25 ITV Nightgreen. 4.35 Jeremy Kyle: Morning Surgery. (R) 5.30 ITV Morning News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 10.55 A Place by the Sea. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Make Do & Mend. 12.35 The TV Book Club. (R) 1.05 Film: Robin and Marian. (1976) Medieval adventure, starring Sean Connery and Audrey Hepburn. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. (R) 11.40 The Ricky Gervais Show. 12.10 Music on 4: JD Set Dublin. 12.30 Film: Kanchivaram. (2008) Premiere. Drama, starring Prakash Raj. 2.35 Unreported World. (R) 3.00 The Men Who Jump Off Buildings. (R) 3.55 Ugly Betty. (R) 4.35 Hill Street Blues. (R) 5.25 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Lunchtime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (1961) 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 6.55 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 7.00 Police Interceptors; 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show; 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Hotel Inspector. 10.00 Extraordinary People: The World's Heaviest Man Gets Married. (R) 11.00 Film: Buster. (1989) 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

Friday

BBC1 6.00 Breakfast. 8.00 The Royal Wedding. 1.40 BBC News; Weather. 2.00 Regional News; Weather. 2.10 The Royal Wedding. 4.00 BBC News; Weather; Regional News. 4.05 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death. (R) 4.35 Film: Shrek. (2001) Animated adventure, with the voice of Mike Myers. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 The Royal Wedding. 10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 11.15 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.25 The One Show. (R) 12.25 Film: Hope Springs. (2002) Romantic comedy, with Colin Firth and Heather Graham; Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone: Madagascar. (R) 2.55 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

BBC2 6.00 The Pink Panther Show. (R) 6.20 Animal Park. (R) 7.05 Film: A Conversation with Gregory Peck. (1959) Interview with the screen icon. 8.30 Film: Spellbound. (1945) Hitchcock thriller, starring Gregory Peck. 10.20 Film: Duel in the Sun. (1946) Western, starring Gregory Peck. 12.25 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The opening session of the second semi-final. 6.00 Eggheads. 6.30 Great British Menu. 7.00 Live Snooker: The World Championship. The third session of the opening semi-final. 9.00 Monty Don's Italian Gardens. 10.00 Frank Skinner's Opinionated. 10.30 Newsnight. 11.00 The Royal Show; Weather. 11.50 Later with Jools Holland. 12.50 Snooker: The World Championship. 1.40 BBC News. 3.55 Close.

ITV1 6.00 Daybreak. 8.30 The Royal Wedding. 1.40 BBC News; Weather. 2.10 The Royal Wedding. 4.00 BBC News; Weather. 4.05 Wallace & Gromit: A Matter of Loaf and Death. (R) 4.35 Film: Shrek. (2001) Animated adventure, with the voice of Mike Myers. 6.00 BBC News; Weather. 6.30 Regional News Programmes; Weather. 7.00 The One Show. 8.00 EastEnders. 8.30 The Royal Wedding. 10.00 BBC News. 10.20 Regional News; Weather. 10.35 Kate and William: A Royal Love Story. 11.15 The National Lottery Friday Night Draws. 11.25 The One Show. (R) 12.25 Film: Hope Springs. (2002) Romantic comedy, with Colin Firth and Heather Graham; Weatherview. 1.55 Sign Zone: Madagascar. (R) 2.55 Michel Roux's Service. (R) 3.55 BBC News.

Channel 4 6.10 The Hoobs. (R) 6.35 Squeezed. 7.30 Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) 7.55 Frasier. (R) 8.25 Friends. (R) 8.55 Wife Swap USA. (R) 9.55 Relocation. (R) 10.55 A Place by the Sea. 12.00 Channel 4 News Summary. 12.05 Make Do & Mend. 12.35 The TV Book Club. (R) 1.05 3 Minute Wonder: Second Lives. (R) 1.10 Film: The Bridges at Toko-Ri. (1954) Korean War adventure, starring William Holden. 3.10 Countdown. 4.00 Deal or No Deal. 5.00 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.00 The Simpsons. (R) 6.30 Hollyoaks. 7.00 Channel 4 News. 7.15 4thought.tv. 7.20 Film: Jumper. (2008) Fantasy thriller, starring Hayden Christensen. 9.00 Darren Brown: Miracles for Sale. 10.35 The Royal Wedding Crashers. 11.05 The Event. 12.05 Music on 4: Mercury Prize Sessions. 1.30 My Name is Earl. (R) 2.15 Film: Brown Sugar. (2002) Romantic drama, with Taye Diggs and Sanaa Lathan. 4.05 Mama Lou. (R) 4.15 Fast Spin Film. (R) 4.20 Eating for Two. (R) 4.50 Freaky. (R) 5.15 Countdown. (R)

Channel 5 6.00 Milkshake! 9.15 The Wright Stuff. 11.05 CSI: NY. (R) 12.00 CSI: NY. (R) 12.50 5 News Lunchtime. 1.00 Chinese Food in Minutes. 1.15 Home and Away. 1.45 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (1961) 5.30 Neighbours. (R) 6.00 Home and Away. (R) 6.30 Extraordinary Dogs. (R) 6.55 Chinese Food in Minutes. (R) 7.00 Police Interceptors; 5 News Update. 8.00 The Gadget Show; 5 News at 9. 9.00 The Hotel Inspector. 10.00 Extraordinary People: The World's Heaviest Man Gets Married. (R) 11.00 Film: Buster. (1989) 1.00 SuperCasino. 4.00 Meals in Moments. (R) 4.10 Brian Sewell's Grand Tour. (R) 4.55 Animal Rescue Squad. (R) 5.10 Wildlife SOS. (R) 5.35 House Doctor. (R)

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Musicals moving to Midlands

I'm more like Gary – Simon

SELF-TAUGHT blues guitarist Simon McBride is preparing to bring his mix of exceptional guitar skills and gritty vocals to Bilston's Robin 2 on May 10.

The former Young Guitarist of the Year has now grown into a fully-fledged rock virtuoso and is visiting the Midlands in support of his second studio album, *Since Then*.

His influences range from Jimi Hendrix to Free guitarist Paul Kossoff, but he compares himself mostly to Gary Moore.

He said: "We both show lots of aggression, passion and emotion when we're on stage."

"If I could be compared to Gary Moore I'd be very happy."

The Irishman has recently finished a tour supporting rock legend Joe Satriani, who McBride was a big fan of as a youngster.

He said: "I taught myself guitar by playing a lot of his songs. Playing with Joe made me feel like a kid again, it was amazing."

Tickets for the gig at Robin 2 cost £12.50 advance and are available from www.therobin.co.uk or £14.00 on the door



Self-taught guitarist Simon McBride

THREE big West End musicals that have been recent or continuing hits in London are coming to the West Midlands on tour.

The award-winning *Legally Blonde The Musical*, the Savoy Theatre hit based on a Reese Witherspoon movie, is coming to Birmingham and Stoke. Californian homecoming queen Elle Woods doesn't take no for an answer.

So when her boyfriend dumps her for someone serious, Elle

puts down the credit card, hits the books, and heads for Harvard Law School accompanied by her loveable Chihuahua, Bruiser. The role of Elle on stage made actress Sheridan Smith one of the hottest talents in the theatreland.

Brings

The current West End cast is led by Susan McFadden.

Legally Blonde will be staged at Stoke-on-Trent's Regent Theatre from September 20 to October 1 and then at Birmingham's New Alexandra Theatre

from October 4 to 12.

Sister Act, the London Palladium hit derived from a Whoopi Goldberg movie, brings soul singing nuns to Wolverhampton Grand Theatre from February 7 to 18, 2012.

Dirty Dancing, a West End smash based on the Patrick Swayze movie, will come to Birmingham Hippodrome as part of its first national tour, which will be next summer's big blockbuster in the city, staged next year from July 4 to August 25.

Merlin gala just magic

STARS of top TV fantasy show *Merlin* attended a gala evening at Warwick Castle to see the opening of the castle's latest visitor attraction, *Merlin: The Dragon Tower*.

Irish actress Katie McGrath, who plays the beautiful witch Morgana, was joined by Angel Coulby, who plays Gwen, and King Uther Pendragon himself, actor Anthony Head, formerly of hit American TV series *Buffy The Vampire Killer*.

A fourth guest was the aptly named Warwick Davis, a familiar TV and film face who had a guest role in the third *Merlin* series and will be returning as the goblin Griphook in the final *Harry Potter* movie.

The actresses were among the first guests to experience the new attraction featuring live actors, a recording of *Merlin* actor Richard Wilson in his role of Gaius, Camelot's court physician, and an audience with The Great Dragon.

Without revealing too many of the surprises in store

for visitors, they will come face to face with the dragon in a magic mirror and find that he interacts with the audience.

Castle general manager Tim Harrison-Jones said: "We are the first and only attraction globally to have the rights to use the *Merlin* brand and it will be perfectly executed."

"We want people to feel as though they are walking into the TV show or stepping back in time to a world of wizardry and wonderment."

Surprise

McGrath and Coulby, who are currently working on the fourth series of *Merlin* in Wales and France, said they enjoyed the *Dragon Tower* experience, especially the dragon's parting surprise.

The launch last Wednesday was rounded off by a spectacular fireworks display. Ticket prices are cheapest online at www.warwickcastle.com and, including all the attractions, are £22.08 (11 and under) and £26.88 (12 and over), or £91.80 for a family of four (two adults and two children under 12).

Dancing on Ice Tour, NIA, Birmingham

YOU have no doubt seen it on TV but nothing beats the live performance.

For weeks I sat every Sunday night glued to the television – disturb me at your peril – watching *Dancing on Ice* but the live tour, which stopped off at Birmingham's NIA last week, is something else.

The dancing, choreography and acrobatics are simply amazing.

Following the same format as the TV show the couples battle it out for a place in the final to dance the Bolero, made famous of course by Torvill and Dean.

The five competitors to be voted through to the second stage were reigning champion Sam Attwater, last year's winner Hayley Tamaddon, Vanilla Ice, Chloe Madeley and Laura Hamilton.

The other three, Denise Welch, Comedy Dave and VC hero Johnson Beharry went out in the first vote. The two in the final were Sam and Hayley but it was Hayley who took the trophy with a perfect routine.

The choreography in Sam's Bolero was excellent but a few mistakes cost him the trophy. No doubt he will make up for it on other tour nights.

The judges were Olympic gold medalist Robin Cousins, coach Karen Barber and Grand Theatre panto star Christopher Biggins, who had debuted as a judge in 2010. Guest judge was Zoe Tyler, who not surprisingly gave her fellow Loose Women star Denise a perfect 10 – definitely not on merit!

A fantastic night with all the text money going to charity but just two criticisms – entertaining as Biggins is his judging on performance was way off the mark and brought boos from the audience and there was a lot of feedback from the microphones of Torvill and Dean so a lot of what they said was lost.

But the skating itself scored a perfect 10.

Sue Attwater

Christy Moore, Birmingham Town Hall

THE pretty much packed Birmingham venue seemed to bring out the best of the Kildare balladeer Christy Moore who, ably assisted by fellow guitarist Declan Sinnott, played for two hours solid for the appreciative crowd who lapped up every note.

Moore's voice, as rich and creamy as the head of a well-poured Guinness, took his army of fans from a frenzy of clapping and wanting to join in with the familiar lyrics of songs such as *Don't Forget Your Shovel* to reducing them to silent awe with a wonderfully moving a cappella rendition of *Spanish Hill*.

With some light heckling from the crowd Moore warmed to his audience, even giving in to shouts of *Joxer*, which he duly played with gusto, but pulled the plug when others thought they could control the concert with his friendly putdown of "I'm not a jukebox".

Moore mostly kept away from the more familiar anthems which even those outside his army of fans may know but delighted the crowd nonetheless with hauntingly lyrical renditions of *The Cliffs of Doonee*, *Ride On*, *So Do I* and *Does The Train Stop at Merseyside*.

There were of course his signature guitar hammering songs *Lisdoonvanna*, *Ordinary Man* and *Yellow Triangle*.

And just to make sure he was covering all the bases he even threw in the Christmas song *Fairytale of New York* just for good measure at Easter, as part of the encore.

Danny Farragher

It's the return of Northern Soul

REGULAR Northern Soul nights will return to Wolverhampton's Wulfrun Hall on a quarterly basis from this autumn.

Former Wigan Casino DJ Kev Roberts will be joining forces with

former Club Lafayette DJ Mike Hollis, Stoke pair Nige Brown and Sean Chapman, plus the Black Country's own Little Scotty at the Mitre Fold venue, spinning stompers and other floor fillers from the 1960s and

70s on Friday, September 9, from 8.30pm to 3am.

Meanwhile, the civic bar on the same night will be offering club classics, jazz funk and house anthems from the 80s and 90s.

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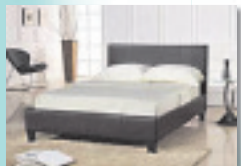
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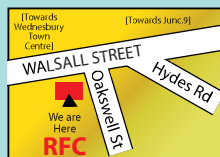
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Open plan living in a modern home

AN individually designed modern detached four-bedroomed home with no upward chain has come onto the market in a prestigious area of Bloxwich.

Number 3 Bealeys Lane overlooks the King George V playing fields and has good-sized light open plan accommodation coupled with ample off-road parking and a convenient position close to local amenities such as Walsall Academy.

For sale through Goodchilds, the property is competitively priced at £285,000 and also has gas central heating, majority double glazing and a sophisticated burglar alarm.

A uPVC double-glazed front door opens into a vast entrance hallway, which includes a split feature staircase to the first floor and laminate flooring.

Doors lead to an office/study with a storage cupboard and a downstairs shower room with a ceramic tiled floor, walk-in power shower, pedestal wash basin, WC and chrome effect heated towel radiator.

In the 20ft x 17ft 2in lounge, there's a feature fire surround and hearth with a contemporary electric fire inset and an archway through to a dining area with laminate tile-effect floor and further archway through to a conservatory, which in turn leads to the garden.

Integrated

The fitted kitchen has wall and base units, rolled-edge worksurfaces, a one-and-a-half bowl stainless steel sink and drainer, breakfast bar area, integrated gas oven and hob with extractor over, dishwasher, fridge freezer and corner carousel base cupboard.

The adjoining utility has space and plumbing for a washing machine, tumble dryer and fridge freezer, laminate flooring and sliding patio doors

to the rear garden.

Upstairs, the master bedroom features built-in bedroom furniture and an en suite with a walk-in corner shower with jets, WC, contemporary designer sink bowl and glass vanity shelf with chrome tap and a chrome effect heated towel radiator.

There are three further bedrooms — two with built-in wardrobes — a separate WC and a family bathroom with a white suite comprising a spa-style bath, WC, pedestal wash basin, chrome-effect heated towel radiator and tiled floor.

Outside, the house is set back from the road behind wrought iron gates and a block paved driveway providing off-road parking for up to five vehicles.

The enclosed rear garden is mainly laid to lawn with mature shrub and tree borders and a paved patio.

For more information or to arrange a viewing, contact 01922 405699.



Call Goodchilds estate agent on 01922 405699 for information regarding the sale of 3 Bealeys Lane.

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BRINDLE ROAD, NEAR TAMEBRIDGE

- Modern three bed three storey townhouse
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- Family Bathroom ● Front and rear gardens

Offers around £149,950

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FOLLYHOUSE LANE, HIGHGATE

- Well presented Extended 3 Bed Semi ● Gas Central Heating and UPVC Double Glazed ● Porch and Hall
- Lounge ● Dining Room ● Extended Breakfast Kitchen
- Updated Bathroom ● Utility/Venue
- Low Maintenance Rear Garden ● Garage

Offers around £149,950

REDUCED REDUCED REDUCED

BIRMINGHAM ROAD, WALSALL

- Beautifully presented two bed first floor flat
- Overlooking communal gardens
- Gas CH & DG ● Hall ● Lounge/Dining Room
- Spacious fitted Kitchen ● Bathroom
- Gated entrance with parking ● Garage

Offers around £134,950

REDUCED REDUCED REDUCED

CHERRY TREE AVENUE, YEW TREE

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- Modern fitted Kitchen
- Upstairs Bathroom
- Good sized rear garden

Offers around £112,500

RENTAL PROPERTIES

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ROWLEY STREET, CHUCKERY

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£425 PCM

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K. Stuart Swash



TINACRE HILL, WIGHTWICK

Close to open countryside and within a prime residential district, a fine detached home with a magnificent south facing rear garden. Approached via an impressive entrance drive flanked by lawn and mature trees the spacious accommodation includes lovely reception hall, fitted cloakroom, large lounge, dining room, south facing conservatory, study, 19ft breakfast kitchen, laundry, wide galleried landing, main bedroom with en suite shower, three further bedrooms, bathroom, garaging for three cars plus ample further parking.

OFFERS AROUND £595,000



THE WOLD, CLAVERLEY

Well presented detached family home within this charming village. Reception hall, smart cloakroom/shower room, lovely lounge and study area off, large light dining room with doors to garden, breakfast kitchen, utility and store. Wide landing, three bedrooms, spacious bathroom, Garage, delightful long rear garden, terrace leading to mature, neatly maintained grounds.

OFFERS AROUND £385,000



ASTONS LANE, CLAVERLEY

A short distance from the centre of the village, a deceptively spacious home with easily maintained grounds, block paved drive, open porch, hall, lounge, dining room, neatly fitted kitchen, double bedroom, bath & shower room, two further bedrooms on first floor, garage, small neat south facing rear garden.

OFFERS AROUND £279,500



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Clothier Street, Willenhall



A refurbished and upgraded 3 bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. This splendid property briefly comprises, lounge with feature fireplace, re-fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom, rear garden and off road parking to front. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
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Essington Road, Willenhall



SUIT LANDLORD OR FIRST TIME BUYER A first floor 2 bedroom flat having the benefit of UPVC double glazing. The property further comprises, communal entrance with intercom, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, shower room and 2 double bedrooms. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
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Fraser Street, Bilston



A two bedroom middle terrace property having the benefit of no upward chain, gas central heating and majority UPVC double glazing. Ideal for first time buyer or landlord the property briefly comprises, lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £69,950
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Honeybourne Way, Kingfisher Estate, Willenhall



Offers by sealed bid invited by 12 noon on Friday 15 April 2011. Ideal investment or 1st time purchase, 2 bedroom semi-detached house, no upward chain, central heating, double glazing, lounge, kitchen, bathroom, side drive with scope to extend (steps), rear garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £80,000
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Horton Close, Darlaston



Presenting a modern well presented three bedroom detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Located in a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises, porch, reception hall, guest WC, garage, re-fitted kitchen/diner, three bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, central heating, front and rear gardens. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
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Banks Street, Willenhall



EXCELLENT SIZE RESIDENCE PRESTIGIOUS 3 BDRM A 31 bedroom guest detached family home on the sought after More estate. The property is a spacious property having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, kitchen, utility room, 3 double bedrooms, off road parking, 1 lock up garage, pool and rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £199,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Barold Cottages, Beckett Street, Bilston



Spacious and well presented period cottage (1809), NO UPWARD CHAIN, benefiting from gas central heating and part upvc double glazing. Briefly comprising: Reception Hall, Lounge, Dining Room, Fitted Kitchen, Ground Floor Shower Room, 2 Bedrooms, First Floor Bathroom, Good size Rear Garden.
OFFERS AROUND: £84,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Willenhall Honeybourne Way, Kingfisher, Willenhall



A three bedroom detached family home on the sought after Kingfisher estate having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. In need of some TLC, the property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, ground floor bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £100,000
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Willenhall Leven Drive, Coppice Farm, Willenhall



VIRTUAL TOUR PROPERTY A new build 2 bedroom modern middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and fitted studio alarm. This well presented home briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 2 double bedrooms and rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £134,995
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Bilston Clare Crescent, Bilston



A well presented three bedroom detached house occupying a corner plot. The property which has been extended to three bedrooms has gas central heating and double glazing. The accommodation comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, dining room, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear.
OFFERS AROUND: £111,995
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Walsall Horton Place, Darlaston, Walsall



An extended three bedroom detached property benefiting from gas central heating, double glazing and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises the following: Reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. On the first floor there are three bedrooms and an en-suite. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £84,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Terrace Villas, Walsall Street, Darlaston



WELLSIDE RESIDENCE A three bedroom detached family home having the benefit of gas central heating, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, ground floor lounge, extended fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £214,995
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Noose Lane, Willenhall



A well presented 2 bedroom end of terrace property having the benefit of a fitted radiator alarm, majority UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. Ideal for landlord or first time buyer the property further comprises, reception hall, fitted kitchen, lounge with French doors, 2 double bedrooms, family bathroom with shower, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £94,000
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Essington Broad Lane, Essington



OPEN THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW A three bedroom detached bungalow in a sought after location having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage.
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Bilston Crowesbridge Mews, Coseley, Bilston



NOTICE OF OFFER: Crowesbridge Mews, Coseley, Bilston, West Midlands, WY4 8LT. A three bedroom detached property with a large garden and off road parking. The property is in a quiet cul-de-sac and is ideal for first time buyers or investors. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £102,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Fenners Close, Park Hill, Wolverhampton



WYFMAUT FENBERG A three bedroom detached family home having the benefit of gas central heating, UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. The property briefly comprises, porch, reception hall, ground floor lounge, extended fitted kitchen, utility room, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £169,995
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Southwick Place, Bilston



A 3 bedroom end of terrace family home having the benefit of double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. On a good sized corner plot in a quiet cul-de-sac location the property further comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, guest WC, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £89,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Walsall Burgh Way, Walsall



NEW DESIGN A modern semi-detached two bedroom house having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £109,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Willenhall Riverbank Road, Riverpoint, Willenhall



Spacious modern three bedroom detached property in a sought after location. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £189,995
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Hill Street, Essington



A three bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of no upward chain, double glazing and gas central heating. This ideal family home further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, family bathroom with additional shower cable, off road parking, detached garage and rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £129,995
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Trentham Avenue, Willenhall



An upgraded and improved 2 bedroom middle terrace family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing and gas central heating. This well presented property further comprises, reception hall, spacious lounge, re-fitted kitchen, conservatory, 2 double bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom, off road parking and rear garden. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £119,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Wolverhampton Carlton Avenue, Wednesfield



WOL STAMPS A three bedroom detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, reception hall, spacious lounge/diner, study, fitted kitchen, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £110,000
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Walsall Redhouse Street, Walsall



A well presented three bedroom detached house having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, conservatory, 3 bedrooms, re-fitted family bathroom, enclosed rear garden and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR AVAILABLE ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £109,995
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Willenhall Vaughan Road, Willenhall



A three bedroom detached family home having the benefit of gas central heating and no upward chain. In a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, fitted kitchen, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to the front.
OFFERS AROUND: £75,000
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Willenhall Chetwynd Close, Willenhall



WILLCHETWYND A well presented three bedroom detached property with a large garden and off road parking. The property is in a quiet cul-de-sac and is ideal for first time buyers or investors. The property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, utility room, ground floor bathroom, 3 bedrooms, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £132,500
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Blowick Road South, Willenhall



An extended and well presented 2 bedroom detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. The property further comprises, lounge, dining room, extended fitted kitchen, celler, 2 double bedrooms, utility room, front and rear gardens and off road parking to rear. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £79,995
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Willenhall Street, Darlaston



A Deceptively Spacious 2 Bedroom Semi Detached House with Gas Central Heating and Double Glazing (see specified). Off Road Parking. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £114,995
 Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Bure Grove, Riverpoint, Willenhall



A well presented two bedroom modern terrace property having the benefit of double glazing and gas central heating. Located in a pleasant cul-de-sac on the sought after Riverpoint estate the property briefly comprises, reception hall, lounge with feature fireplace, fitted kitchen, 2 double bedrooms, utility room, front and rear gardens, off road parking and garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £107,500
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Colliers Close, Summer Hayes, Willenhall



Presenting a spacious 4 bedroom detached bungalow benefiting from central heating, double glazing and alarm system. Further comprising hall, lounge, fitted breakfast kitchen, conservatory, 4 bedrooms with en-suite to master, family bathroom with jacuzzi bath, front drive, rear garden & large rear garage.
OFFERS AROUND: £197,500
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Lawford Avenue, Wednesfield



A 3 bedroom semi detached family home having the benefit of UPVC double glazing, gas central heating and no upward chain. In a quiet cul-de-sac the property further comprises, porch, reception hall, lounge, dining room, kitchen, 3 bedrooms, bathroom, front and rear gardens and off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £99,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

Teal Grove, Hawkwood Grange, Moxley



A Modern 3 Bedroom Semi Detached Home Located in a Cul-de-Sac Location. Gas Central Heating & UPVC Double Glazing (as specified). Reception Hall. VIRTUAL TOUR ON OUR WEBSITE.
OFFERS AROUND: £119,995
 Viewing: 0121 505 3533

Clothier Street, Willenhall



Modern 3 bedroom detached house, central heating & double glazing, hall, guest wc, lounge, dining room, fitted kitchen, fitted bathroom, front & rear gardens, off road parking.
OFFERS AROUND: £149,950
 Viewing: 01902 633323

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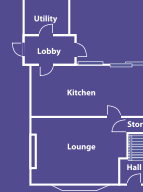
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- Large Rear Garden
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- Deceptively Spacious Accommodation
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- Guest Cloakroom
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LICHFIELD ROAD, WILLENHALL

- Three Bedroomed Detached Bungalow
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- Bathroom
- Double Garage
- Large front and rear Gardens
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CASH OFFERS £165,000



MARDEN CLOSE, WILLENHALL

- Well Presented Modern Style Semi
- Two Bedrooms
- Gas Central Heating & Double Glazing
- Attractive Lounge
- Breakfast Kitchen with Hob & Oven
- Ample off-road Parking

OFFERS £114,950



LISTER STREET, WILLENHALL

- Modern Apartment
- Two Bedrooms
- Ground Floor
- Double Glazing
- Security Buzzer Entry system
- Garage & Electrically Operated Gates

£87,950



STANLEY ROAD, DARLASTON

- Gas Fired Central Heating and Double Glazing
- Kitchen
- Lounge
- Extended Dining Room
- Two Bedrooms
- Foregarden with Parking and rear garden

OFFERS £79,950



LAWNSIDE GREEN, BILSTON

- Three Bedroomed Semi-Detached
- Guest Cloakroom
- Lounge
- Dining Kitchen
- Fore and Rear Gardens
- In need of some upgrading

OFFERS £79,950



COBDEN STREET, WALSALL

- ★ Mid Terrace Property
- ★ Two Reception Rooms
- ★ Two Bedrooms & Bathroom
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ Downstairs WC
- ★ UPVC DG & GCH

£525pcm



DAW END LANE, RUSHALL

- ★ Terraced Property
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Bathroom & Cloakroom
- ★ Three Bedrooms
- ★ Garden
- ★ GCH & DG

£500pcm



POPLAR AVENUE, BENTLEY

- ★ Semi-detached
- ★ Lounge & Kitchen
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom & Cloakroom
- ★ GCH & UPVC DG
- ★ Rear Garden

£475pcm



CHARLECOTE RISE, WILLENHALL

- ★ Two Bedroom Semi-Detached
- ★ Hallway
- ★ Kitchen, Utility
- ★ Re-Fitted Bathroom
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Gas Central Heating

£450pcm



MAIN STREET, STONNALL

- ★ Flat
- ★ Lounge
- ★ Kitchen with Hob & Oven
- ★ Two Bedrooms
- ★ Bathroom
- ★ Gas Central Heating
- ★ Part Double Glazing

£435pcm



HARRINGWORTH COURT, SHEFFIELD

- ★ First Floor flat
- ★ Two bedrooms
- ★ Lounge/dining Room
- ★ Kitchen & Bathroom
- ★ DG & Storage Heaters
- ★ Garage & Parking

£420pcm



HIGH RIDGE CLOSE, ALDRIDGE

- ★ Second floor flat
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- ★ Lounge & Dining Room
- ★ Kitchen
- ★ DG & GCH
- ★ Rear Garden

£400pcm



GOMER STREET, WILLENHALL

- ★ First Floor Flat
- ★ One Bedroom
- ★ Reception Hall
- ★ Lounge, Kitchen
- ★ Shower Room
- ★ Gas Central Heating

£275pcm

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- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Newly Fitted Kitchen
- Ground Floor Wet Room
- Large Driveway
- Large Rear Garden
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Bridge Street Lofts Walsall

- Two Bedrooms
- One Reception room
- Heating
- Secure Entrance
- Sorry No DHSS

£450 PCM



Foster Street Bloxwich

- Two Bedroom End Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Fitted Kitchen
- DHSS Accepted

£425 PCM



Beeches Road Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi Detached
- Gardens
- Two Reception rooms
- DHSS Accepted
- Gas central heating

£495 PCM



May Street WALSALL

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Two Reception Rooms
- Family Bathroom
- Kitchen
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM



Bryan Road Walsall

- Two Bedroom terrace
- Fitted kitchen
- Lounge
- Bathroom
- Rear garden
- Off-road parking
- Sorry No DHSS

£425 PCM



Wolverhampton Road Bloxwich

- One Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Shower Room
- Loft Bedroom
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Goscote Lane Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Front garden
- Entrance Hall
- Off Road Parking
- Fitted Kitchen
- Double Glazing
- Downstairs W.C.
- Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



Yemscroft, Lichfield Road Rushall

- Two Bed Top Floor Flats
- Lounge
- Kitchen with Appliances
- Bathroom
- Shared Communal Gardens
- Sorry no DHSS, Smokers or Pets

From £450 PCM



Blakenall Heath Blakenall

- Two Bed Apartment
- Central Heating
- Lounge/ Kitchen
- Fitted Bathroom
- Double Glazing
- DHSS Accepted

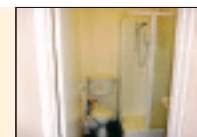
£425 PCM



Bloxwich Road Walsall

- One Bedroom Flat
- Lounge
- Kitchen
- Off Road Parking
- Gas Central Heating
- DHSS Accepted

£380 PCM



Green Lane Walsall

- One Bed Flat
- Self - Contained
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen
- Bathroom
- Gas Central Heating
- Sorry no DHSS

£325 PCM



Borneo Street Walsall

- Three Bedroom House
- Bathroom
- Two Reception rooms
- Rear Garden
- Fitted Kitchen
- Sorry No DHSS

£500 PCM



Stanley Street Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Semi-Detached
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- Driveway
- Sorry No DHSS

£495 PCM



Thornbury Road Walsall

- Two bedroom apartment
- Electric Heating
- Lounge
- Double Glazing
- Fitted kitchen
- Allocated Parking
- Bathroom
- Sorry No DHSS

£440 PCM



Tanners Court Walsall

- One & Two Bed Apartments
- Family Bathroom with Shower
- Un-Furnished
- Lounge
- Fitted Kitchen
- Sorry No DHSS

From £425 PCM



Lincoln Road Walsall

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£375 PCM



Millfield Avenue Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Mid-Terrace
- Lounge
- Kitchen/Diner
- Utility
- Ground Floor W.C.
- Family Bathroom
- Front & Rear Gardens
- DHSS Accepted

£495 PCM



West Street Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Terrace
- Double Glazing
- Gas Central Heating
- Two Reception rooms,
- Downstairs w.c.,
- New Kitchen, Newly decorated
- New Carpets,
- DHSS Accepted.

£450 PCM



Waterfront Way Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartment
- Secure Allocated Parking
- Lounge
- Communal Entrance
- Bathroom with Shower
- Sorry no DHSS

£495 PCM



Smiths Flour Mill Walsall

- Two Bedroom Apartments
- Parking
- Un-Furnished
- Secure Entrance
- En-Suite
- Sorry NO DHSS
- Electric Heating

£475 PCM



High Street Bloxwich

- Three Bedroom Flat
- Large Lounge
- Kitchen with integrated cooker
- Double Glazing
- Electric Heating
- Off Road Parking
- DHSS Accepted

£450 PCM

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- 3 Good Sized Bedrooms & re-laid Rear Garden

Offers In The Region of £109,950

NEW



**Wolverhampton Road
Essington**

- Improved and tastefully presented
- Through lounge dining room
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- Side lobby with utility
- Two generously proportioned bedrooms
- Bathroom/WC
- Offroad parking, neatly presented gardens

Offers in the region of £125,995

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REDUCTION**



**Reedley Road
Sneyd Park, Willenhall**

- An extended and much improved modern semi detached house
- Occupying a quiet yet convenient location on this ever popular estate
- Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation
- Front lounge, rear dining kitchen (re-fitted), extended family room
- Three bedrooms, re-fitted bathroom/WC
- Carport, detached garage, enclosed rear garden
- NO UPWARD CHAIN
- Must View

£145,000



**Ullswater Road
Coppice Farm, Willenhall**

- An immaculately presented modern detached house
- Gas centrally heated and PVCu double glazed
- Front lounge, rear dining room, re-fitted kitchen
- Utility room, Guests cloak/WC, large conservatory
- Four bedrooms, master having en-suite shower room/WC
- Single car garage, Block paved driveway
- Viewing Essential

Offers In The Region Of £224,950



**Argyll Court
Willenhall**

- An immaculately presented ground floor apartment
- Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed
- A good sized lounge/kitchen
- One double bedroom and spacious bathroom/WC
- Allocated secure parking to the rear
- Long Leasehold

Offers In The Region Of £69,950



**KingFisher Court
Willenhall**

- A compact ground floor apartment
- Situated in a modern purpose built block
- An ideal first time buy or investment opportunity
- Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed
- One double bedroom, bathroom/WC
- Large through lounge and open plan kitchenette
- Parking space and communal gardens
- Long Leasehold
- Viewing Essential

Offers In The Region Of £79,995



**Gorey Close
Coppice Farm, Willenhall**

- An attractively situated semi-detached house
- Gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed accommodation
- Lounge, extended dining room, fitted kitchen
- Three bedrooms, family bathroom/WC
- Single car garage, driveway
- Easily maintained gardens
- Open aspect to the front
- Viewing Essential

Offers In The Region Of £138,950



**Tameside Close,
Willenhall**

- Large open plan lounge/dining room/kitchen
- 2 good sized bedrooms, main bathroom
- Private enclosed rear garden
- Garage and driveway parking for two vehicles
- NO UPWARD CHAIN

Offers In The Region Of £59,950



**The Coppice, Short Heath
Willenhall**

- Deceptively Spacious Detached Bungalow
- Quiet Cul-de-sac Location
- Lounge, Separate Dining Room,
- Extended Kitchen 2 Good Bedrooms
- Shower Room/WC, Conservatory
- Single Garage & Off Road Parking

Offers In The Region Of £150,995



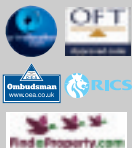
**Thompson Street
Willenhall**

- A superbly spacious Victorian detached house
- Offering gas central heating and PVCu double glazing
- Three large reception rooms, breakfast kitchen
- Four bedrooms, bathroom/WC
- Carport and tandem length garage
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Your essential guide to the world of motoring compiled by Motoring Editor Sharon Walters

French fleet car aims to vanquish the Germans

PEUGEOT is coming out with all guns blazing in its battle for the fleet large-car stakes with the new 508.

It's stylish, well-kitted out and won't quite make you love the taxman but at least you would speak to him in the street.

To be fair, until now you wouldn't have necessarily thought of Peugeot for your company car but the 508 will no doubt change that and also the minds of the fleet buyers.

The 508 replaces Peugeot's 407 and 607 models which

By Sharon Walters

were decent large cars but never really broke into that valuable fleet market dominated by badge snobbery – drivers preferred a German badge rather than the French!

Peugeot is now trying to alter that. If the badge snobs actually look behind the "image" they will find something that those who think for themselves and don't worry about what other people think, is every bit as good if not better. It looks far more stylish too, as you would expect from the French.

There are two body styles in the well-equipped range, a Saloon and SW. And it's the SW that's the best looking: beautiful curve

lines flow along the body down to a sweet rear end which hides loads of space. The SW is also expected to be the most popular retail car.

Added to the elegant design are powerful, economical and low CO2 engines and the debut of Peugeot's new e-HDi Stop & Start System technology. The modern interior design is both practical and comfortable and there are five trim levels – Access, SR, Active, Allure and GT.

On sale today are seven engines available: two petrol and five diesel.

The HDi 112 diesel engine is available in two versions, with either a five-speed manual gearbox or Peugeot's e-HDi Stop & Start System with a six-speed electronically controlled manual gearbox (EGC). The HDi Stop & Start System technology enables customers to reduce fuel consumption (up to 15 per cent in urban driving) and with the EGC gearbox it produces just 109 g/km of CO2 in the Saloon and 110 g/km in the SW version – and that's one reason company car drivers won't swear when they get their tax codes.

Inside, the cabin has an attractive two-dial instrument binnacle in a stylish centre console, with clear functions and switches – no need to set aside a couple of hours going through the handbook to find out the essentials. One minus is the electronic handbrake which appears in all

Badge snobs may change their tune over Peugeot's 508



but the basic models.

Sorry, but they are not intuitive to use and are awkward.

Standard equipment is good, even on the entry-level model which at £18,150 is well priced. With the top model at £28,750 comes a feast of gadgets and gizmos which are not just luxurious but in some cases useful.

There is plenty of space for driver and passengers in terms of head, leg and arm room

and in the SW with the panoramic sunroof you feel as if you are in a gorgeous large bubble. There's plenty of storage space in both saloon and SW and in the luggage areas.

The seat-folding of the SW is easy to use and getting the luggage cover to fold is the easiest – slap it and it retreats! Great if you ever need to get rid of a bit of stress.

Another French firm may have Va Va Voom but Peugeot's lion makes you purr away the miles.

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Saab motoring with finance deals



Saab's finance schemes start from £289 a month

SAAB Great Britain is celebrating the arrival of spring by offering the most comprehensive and competitive range of customer finance packages it has ever devised.

Available across its core product range are: competitive and affordable Personal Contract Purchase (PCP) schemes; contract hire agreements including lower monthly rentals; zero per cent interest and deposit terms; and loyal and new customer offers with a free servicing package.

Benchmarked against key competitors, these ultra-competitive packages are offered across the Saab dealer network for a limited period. The offer will end on July 4.

Improving residual values have enabled Saab Great Britain to offer highly competitive

and affordable monthly payments for its PCP scheme. A Saab 1.9-litre 9-3 twin turbo-diesel Saloon with 160hp and just 119g/km CO2 emissions is now available for just £299 per month. PCP customers are also able to take advantage of a special three-year servicing plan for £399. The Contract Hire Plan is open to business and private users.

Improved

Monthly rental costs are reduced for all models by up to six per cent, while most standard specifications are improved. Prices start from £289 per month for a Saab 1.9-litre 9-3X twin turbo diesel SportWagon and £299 for a Saab 2.0-litre 9-5 T1D Vector SE.

Deposit-free, with zero per cent interest

purchase terms are available for all regular Saab models during the qualifying period. Payments can be extended from 36 to 60 months by agreement with the dealer.

Existing Saab customers can claim price reductions of up to £3,000 by purchasing another new Saab, while those exchanging competitor products are rewarded by a reduction of up to £2,500. Both offers include free servicing for three years, worth approximately £1,000.

"Renewed confidence in the Saab brand and improving residual values have enabled us to sharpen our customer finance offers," says Craig Gentleman, Saab GB general manager, sales. "We now have the widest and most competitive range of finance products we have ever offered."



The overhauled pro_cee'd '4' has a satnav system as standard

Kia's family car facelift

KIA MOTORS UK Ltd has introduced a new top-line pro_cee'd to its family car line up.

Surpassing the existing pro_cee'd "3", the facelifted pro_cee'd "4" features the Schreyer grille and a new higher output 1.6-litre diesel engine producing 126bhp at 6,200rpm – 13bhp above the current engine. Top speed is 122mph with 0-60mph acceleration in just over 10 seconds.

The new pro_cee'd "4" comes with 17in alloy wheels and black

bezel headlights and privacy glass to help create the sporty exterior appearance. The interior has full black leather upholstery combined with front heated seats and a leather trimmed steering wheel to add a luxurious feel. Cruise control is fitted as standard with controls on the steering wheel for driver convenience.

For the first time in the cee'd range, the new "4" grade adds, as standard, a fully integrated satnav system with a 7in full-colour touch-screen system.

A variety of extra features includes a large selection of Euro-

pean maps, points-of-interest and multi-route planning.

The Bluetooth system can be operated through the touch screen with the ability to download mobile phone directories from up to eight mobile phones.

An advanced reversing camera system offers a view of obstacles to the rear of the vehicle and is displayed through the satnav screen.

The new pro_cee'd "4" is available at an on-the-road price of £18,495 and benefits from Kia's pioneering seven-year, 100,000 miles, fully transferable manufacturer's warranty.

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1111 HYUNDAI i20 CLASSIC 5DR, AC, CD, ESP
1111 HYUNDAI i30 COMFORT 1.4, WHITE
1111 HYUNDAI i20 S SPECIAL EDITION BLACK
1111 HYUNDAI i30 DIESEL ESTATE ICE BLUE
1111 HYUNDAI i10 CLASSIC WHITE, AC, CD
1160 HYUNDAI i30 CLASSIC 1.4 STONE BLACK, AC, CD, ESP, REMOTE LOCKING, WARRANTY 2016
1160 HYUNDAI i30 COMFORT AUTO BLUE, AC
1160 HYUNDAI i30 CLASSIC DIESEL, RED ALLOYS, AC, CD, ESP, IPOD, LOW EMISSIONS ONLY £30 ROAD TAX
1060 HYUNDAI i30 COMFORT DIESEL ESTATE, BLACK ALLOYS, AC, CD, ESP, WARRANTY 2015
1060 HYUNDAI i10 CLASSIC ALPINE BLUE, CENTRAL LOCKING, ELECTRIC F/WINDOWS, WARRANTY NOV 2015
1060 HYUNDAI i20 COMFORT 1.2 3 DR BLACK, ALLOYS, AC, CD, ESP, IPOD CONNECTION, DELIVERY MILES
1060 HYUNDAI i20 DIESEL ALLOYS, RFL £20

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1060 HYUNDAI i20 CLASSIC, SILVER, AC, CD, CENTRAL LOCKING, ELECTRIC FRONT WINDOWS, WARRANTY 2015
1060 HYUNDAI i20 COMFORT 1.2 3 DR, GREY ALLOYS, AC, CD, ESP, REMOTE LOCKING, WARRANTY JUNE 2015
1060 HYUNDAI i10 LIMITED EDITION, RED ALLOYS, REMOTE LOCKING, FOG LAMPS, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, WARRANTY UNTIL 2015
1060 HYUNDAI i30 1.4 COMFORT VIVID BLUE, AC, CD, ESP, IPOD, LOW EMISSIONS ONLY £30 ROAD TAX, WARRANTY 2015
1060 HYUNDAI i20 COMFORT DIESEL, SPARKLE BLUE, AC, CD, ESP, IPOD, LOW EMISSIONS ONLY £30 ROAD TAX, WARRANTY UNTIL 2015
1060 HYUNDAI i10 STYLE, SUNROOF, HEATED SEATS, ALLOYS, AC, CD, REMOTE LOCKING, WARRANTY 2015
1059 HYUNDAI i30 COMFORT ESTATE, RED ALLOYS, AC, CD, ESP, IPOD, SOCKET WARRANTY JAN 2015
1059 HYUNDAI i30 STYLE ESTATE, VIVID BLUE, CLEAN CAR, PART LEATHER, ALLOYS, WARRANTY UNTIL 2015
0959 HYUNDAI i10 ES LIMITED EDITION, RED, REMOTE LOCKING, ELECTRIC FRONT WINDOWS, AC, CD, ABS, WARRANTY 2014
0959 HYUNDAI i20 COMFORT DIESEL, GREY ALLOYS, REMOTE LOCKING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, AC, CD, ONLY £30 ROAD TAX, WARRANTY 16/9/14
0959 HYUNDAI i30 STYLE ESTATE, 1.2 3DR, SLEEK SILVER, AC, CD, ALLOYS, REMOTE LOCKING, ELECTRIC WINDOWS, WARRANTY NOV 2014
0959 HYUNDAI i30 STYLE ESTATE, STONE BLACK, CLEAN CAR, PART LEATHER, ALLOYS, WARRANTY UNTIL SEPT 2014, FANTASTIC VALUE
0959 HYUNDAI i30 DIESEL BLACK ALLOYS, AC, CD, SERVICE HISTORY, ONE OWNER, ONLY £30 ROAD TAX, WARRANTY 2014
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1060 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 7SEAT STYLE AUTO, CHOICE, ALLOYS, AC, CD, ESP, WARRANTY NOV 2015
1060 HYUNDAI SANTA FE 7SEAT STYLE MAN, CHOICE, ALLOYS, AC, CD, ESP, WARRANTY NOV 2015
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grey tabby, black stripes,
missing since April 13,
friendly, bit timid, desperate
to find, Hawkes Lane, Mother
pining, Reward, Steve, Dot.
07981 342592/0121 5564226.

LOST ALFIE
Please help us find him, he is
a 22 month old neutered
male, dark grey tabby with
distinctive black stripes.
Missing since Wednesday
evening, 10pm, April 13, we
are desperate to find him.
Lost Hawkes Lane Hill
Top. Mother cat pining for
him. Reward offered.

Ring Steve or Dot.
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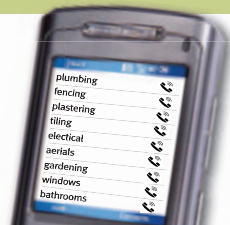
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All even end for the last battle

A comfortable win for Walsall

RUGBY

ALDRIDGE 16 TENBURY 16

Aldridge completed their season's league campaign with their battling performance against league high fliers Tenbury who required a win to gain promotion.

A penalty from scrum-half Chris Jones after just three minutes opened the scoring and a fine individual try by stand-in full-back Ben Drinkwater just six minutes later increased the margin. Chris Jones added the easy

conversion. The visitors then pushed the action into the home side's territory.

Another Chris Jones penalty gave Aldridge a comfortable looking 13-0 lead at the break.

Tenbury reduced the arrears after just two minutes with a penalty by lock Will Gough.

Two yellow cards for scrummage infringements handed the advantages back to the visitors and a second Gough

penalty made a further inroad into the margin. As the Aldridge defence became increasingly stretched, a good move along the Tenbury backs put full back Freddie Hughes over out wide which Gough converted to level the scores. Back with a full complement, Aldridge were soon back on the offensive in Tenbury territory. A third Jones penalty put them back in the lead which was nullified by another effort from Gough, also his third.

BANBURY 8 WALSALL 44

Full back Chris Mould produced two moments of brilliance early in the second half to eventually give his team a comfortable match-winning lead at Bodicote Park.

The early scoring of this match came through Matt Wood. Birthday boy, Jono Edwards, had made two strong runs which resulted in two early penalties for Wood.

This was followed by captain Steve

Halbert producing a 25 metre run which resulted in the hosts conceding another penalty. Banbury, to their credit, hit back with a well taken try by No 8 Simon Brand.

Edwards on the left wing showed some good pace as he followed up a Wood kick to gather and dive over near the corner flag. Wood put over the difficult conversion but Mike Smith cut the deficit with a 20 metre penalty. The half, however, finished

with Matt Wood running in a try from 20 metres. Wood's conversion gave Walsall a 23-8 half time lead. But this was 37-8 after only 10 minutes of the second half thanks to Chris Mould. The next 20 minutes was a rather lack lustre contest, it was only in the closing minutes they scored again. Dan Poston showed good speed to evade two tacklers for a try. Matt Wood converted. This Saturday Nuneaton Old Eds are the visitors.

BLOXWICH UTD

Blox see early lead snatched



Bloxwich's Leon Taylor holds off Beker Hall

WEDNESFIELD 2 BLOXWICH UTD 1

The home side got off to a perfect start with a second minute goal when John Clapp out-jumped the visitors' defence to head a Thomas Horton free-kick down to Bekir Halli who transferred the ball to the unmarked Lee Butler to side-foot past Tony Simkiss.

But the home side's joy was short-lived when the visitors equalised 10 minutes later as young Wednesday keeper Sam Arnold kicked the ball straight to Alan Wilkes who promptly lofted the ball over Arnold's head into the net.

Wednesday's Anton Johns had a goal ruled out for offside and the home side went ahead in the 58th minute when Horton found Butler and his low cross was swept home by Johns at the near post.

JUNIORS

SHIRE OAK SHARKS 1 BERKSWICH FC 1 U16S

Sharks failed to capitalise on Berkswich being under strength despite taking the lead in the first half through Callan Watkins. However, Sharks frustration on failing to capitalise grew and their performance deteriorated. Sam Butters missed from six yards with a header but Sharks failed to pass the ball well. Towards the end Berkswich equalised and Sharks were reduced to 10 men as Ryan Killips was sent off.

SILVERDALE 2 BLOXWICH UNITED 2 U15S

The Red lions had the majority of the possession throughout the game but had to wait until the final minute for an equaliser that gave them a point. Hesitation in the Bloxwich defence allowed the home side to take the lead and although Nathan Smith, Kyle Holmes and Jamal Downie all saw chances go close Silverdale held out until half time.

Bloxwich finally drew level midway through the second half after Kyle Holmes latched on to a deft touch from Jamal Downie and slotted the ball home.

Bloxwich's joy was short lived as just minutes later Silverdale scored their second. Kyle Holmes pulled the ball back from the bye-line for Josh Green to stroke home the equaliser from inside the box.

RUSHALL OLYMPIC

Pics pick up precious point to stay unbeaten

CARLTON 0 RUSHALL OLYMPIC 0

Rushall Olympic extended their unbeaten run to remain in a play-off spot with three games to go.

The opening stages of the game were a tentative affair as both sides took their time to size each other up and inevitably goalscoring opportunities were very much few and far between.

The first main talking point of the contest arrived on 24 minutes when a big penalty appeal rang out from within the confines of the home side's 18-yard box as Rushall midfielder Christian Dacres went to ground as a result of a defensive challenge.

In the 33rd minute Carlton's Ryan Goward tried his luck from long range with a low drive that was safely gathered by keeper Chris Gemmell.

A minute later, as play moved swiftly to the other end, Pics' top scorer Matt Lewis took up possession through the left channel and his powerful strike towards the far post was well saved by Millers' shot-stopper Danny Marshall.

Two minutes into the second period and Carlton were quickly on the offensive through Goward as the left sided defender ambitiously changed his arm from fully 40 yards out with a pacy drive that went well wide of the target. The second period continued in very much the same vein as the first with each side looking to exert superiority in midfield.

However, Carlton suffered a blow in the 70th minute when they lost talismanic veteran goal-getter Neil Grayson with what appeared to be a pulled muscle.

Penalty

In the 79th minute, as substitute Ahmed Obeng darted dangerously into the left side of the box towards the by-line, there was another vocal penalty appeal as the young forward found himself brought to the ground by a challenge. However, referee Mr. Watson was once again unmoved.

The hosts made a double substitution on 81 minutes as Theodore Smith and Lovell White made way for Jerome Hollis and Ricky Gardner, with the infusion of fresh legs quickly appearing to have an effect. Within 60 seconds of the swap Goward again sent a long-range drive wide of the target.

On 85 minutes Dacres lost possession for Olympic in the centre of the park and from the resulting counter-attack the visitors almost paid dearly.

Substitute Hollis was sent surging into the periphery of Rushall's penalty area Gemmell anticipated the imminent danger and spirited off his line to narrow the angle and pull off a tremendous one-handed block at close quarters.

Just before injury time and the Pics breathed a massive sigh of relief when Gemmell attempted to shepherd Curtis Shaw out of the right side of his area, only to make a grab for the ball and appear to hook his opponent's trailing leg. As the Town man crashed to the ground within the confines of the box there was uproar from within the home ranks as the referee appeared to even things up and turn away the hosts' fervent appeals for a spot-kick.



Rushall's Lei Brown in a battle for possession



Matt Lewis challenges.

Pictures: Darren Stockall

WALSALL WOOD

Wood pull back for draw

WALSALL WOOD 1 HEATHER ST JOHNS 1

Walsall Wood drew with Midland Combination Premier champions-elect Heather St Johns in a game rearranged due to the original fixture in October being abandoned when Wood midfielder Torgut Bilgimer suffered a serious head injury.

Wood started the game with a surprise inclusion up front, with central defender Shaun Boothe partnering Lewis Taylor Boyce.

Captain Stuart Cox returned to the starting line-up and there was also a welcome return to first

team action for Bilgimer, who was named on the bench.

Wood started the game brightly and Sean Wallis missed a great chance when he pulled his effort wide.

For the second game running, Wood conceded a penalty when Cox mis-timed a tackle and Spencer converted the opportunity to take the visitors into half-time leading 1-0.

Wood then found another gear and played arguably their best football in recent games.

With time running out, Wood's pressure eventually paid off with

influential midfielder Mark Bandurak scoring from eight yards on 80 minutes.

The home side then brought on Bilgimer, who was wearing a head guard, to a standing ovation from the Oak Park Crowd and both sets of players.

Boss Nigel Birch said: "This game was so important to all at Oak Park. Torgut's injury affected all of us and to see him again on the pitch was quite emotional."

Wood play Heather St Johns meet again in the reverse league fixture.

Ten minutes from time Kyle Baxter spotted the keeper off his line and sent a free-kick from halfway into the net.

Six minutes later Piggon raced onto a ball over the top, tried to round keeper Chris Collins but was brought down, the referee allowed the advantage and Kyle King tapped in from close range.

The scoreline took on an unreal look on 87 minutes when Barnett scythed through the Villa defence from wide right before finding King on the edge of the box, his first time drive took a wicked deflection to completely wrong-foot Collins.

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SEAGULLS SOAR AT SORRY SADDLERS

WALSALL 1 BRIGHTON 3

Success is relative, but it means so much. It is quite possible that two of the most successful teams in League One met each other on Saturday.

When the awards are dished out at the end of the season, Brighton will collect the plaudits.

They have romped to the title – to seal it at the Banks's Stadium with four games to spare is some feat – but it won't be the biggest triumph this term.

Should Walsall pull off their Great Escape it would eclipse the achievement of any team in the division.

Survival would be tantamount to winning the title and make Brighton's scenes at the Banks's following the final whistle look like a toddler's tea party.

The Seagulls may be closing in on 100 points but the Saddlers could survive with less than half and it would be a bigger achievement.

Brighton had momentum for the whole season yet the Saddlers have battled back from a standing start. While the Seagulls were expected to claim the title – nothing was expected of Walsall.

With 12 points to play for Dean Smith's men are fifth from bottom – something unthinkable in the dark days BS (Before Smith).

Eight points adrift of safety in January they sit out of the drop zone on goal difference in April – against all odds.

Written off, no-one gave Walsall a chance but here they stand on the brink of something extraordinary.

Yet there is no middle ground now. You're either safe or you're not.

With six teams still battling the drop the finale of a titanic relegation fight becomes a battle of nerves – a high-stakes poker game where the loser blinks in the face of the victor's steely stare.

There is no self-doubt in the Saddlers' squad, at least on the surface, and the message from the camp is one of strength.

It has to be. Negativity is something which isn't tolerated in the corridors of Essington – a far cry from earlier in the season – which is why Saturday's defeat hasn't raised the alert levels.

Reflections

After the dust had settled on a spirited 3-1 defeat to Gus Poyet's all-conquering team, reflections were easy for Smith, who has lost Clayton McDonald for the season with a dislocated shoulder.

He was angry at the way his men conceded two soft goals from corners, as Inigo Calderon and Glenn Murray took advantage of slack marking, but cool enough to realise it changed little.

It was Walsall's free-hit. With their other relegation rivals all losing against promotion-chasing opposition there was never a better time to play Brighton.

While there is never an acceptance of defeat there will be a sly nod to the all-powerful fixture computer for spitting out a selection like Saturday's.

Plymouth lost at Peterborough, Bristol Rovers at Southampton, Swindon hosted victors MK Dons and Notts County did the decent thing and lost 2-0 to Bournemouth even before the Saddlers started.

The weekend was never, ever, going to be decisive and the status quo remains.

An Easter weekend double-header against Sheffield Wednesday and Oldham now represents Walsall's first chance for salvation.

Six points could virtually guarantee safety while failure to win either increases the tension.

What they cannot do is undermine their efforts. The players have given themselves – and the fans – hope, so to blow it now would be unbearable.

A point at the weekend would have represented a fine haul but, despite defeat, there was enough spunk about the Saddlers to suggest there is some juice left in the tank.

High on effort, low on quality, the Saddlers battled and the match only drifted away after substitute Emmanuel Ledesma was sent off for a reckless two-footed tackle on Adam El-Abd – 19 minutes after his 60th minute appearance.

Before then they kept on the coat-tails of the visitors, even if they struggled to contain them.

Once Ledesma walked Murray, Craig Noone and Albion loanee Chris Wood all squandered fine chances.

It was up to former Wolves starlet Elliott Bennett to add the gloss with a peach of a third in injury time.

Andy Butler had earlier nodded the hosts level after Calderon headed Brighton in front following a horror mix-up between Richard Taundry and Jimmy Walker – the former getting in the latter's way.

But the game was immaterial. It was Brighton's day and their title – yet it still could be the Saddlers' season.



Saddlers' Marc Laird with Matt Sparrow of Brighton and Jordan Cook behind



Julian Gray, who struggled to get going, seen clashing with Ashley Barnes



Brighton get the first of their three goals against Walsall with a shot from Inigo Calderon.

Red card rule crazy, says Smith

Boss Dean Smith has branded the rule which led to Emmanuel Ledesma's red card as "crazy" after the Argentine ace was ruled out of Walsall's crunch survival showdowns.

The midfielder was sent off for a 79th-minute two-footed tackle on Adam El-Abd as the Saddlers lost 3-1 to Brighton on Saturday – as the Seagulls claimed the League One title.

He will be hit with a three-game ban and is now sidelined until the final-day trip when the Saddlers play Southampton.

And while Smith admitted Ledesma – who lasted just 19 minutes after replacing Matt Richards on the hour – had to go, he revealed his frustration with modern-day football.

"It's a crazy rule. If that's a sending-off then I would have been sent off 45 times in my career," said the boss. If he wins the ball then I can't see a problem, but by the letter of the law he's gone in with two feet so it's a sending-off.

Dislocated

"It was a 50-50 ball but you can't go in with two feet for some reason. He won the ball but he's gone in with two legs and you can't do that now."

Smith has also lost Clayton McDonald for the rest of the term with a dislocated shoulder and urged his team to keep the faith ahead of their final four games.

He said: "What I found unacceptable is when Emmy got sent off we lost belief. I said to them I've seen 10 men come back against 11 many times but we accepted we weren't going to get anything out of it and that's unacceptable for me."

"They have to take responsibility. I'm angry because I felt we could have got something out of the game. Brighton are worthy champions and they played some great stuff but they scored from two corners and that's what annoys me."

"We gave it a go which I was pleased with but we're better than that and the lads have got to stand up and be counted."

Despite defeat, the Saddlers remain outside the bottom four. Smith added: "All the results have gone for us in terms of being out of the bottom four so the luck is still in our favour."

Skipper praises heart of hurt defender McDonald

Walsall skipper Andy Butler hailed Clayton McDonald after the defender was ruled out for the rest of the season with a dislocated shoulder. The centre-back tried to play on after falling awkwardly in the second half of Saturday's loss to Brighton.

He was eventually replaced in the 69th minute by Oliver Lancashire and Butler insisted McDonald's efforts epitomised the spirit in the Saddlers' camp.

"It's a do-or-die cause, Clayton said 'step up or go away' – he's got a massive heart and he's willing to put his body on the line for the cause."

League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Brighton	42	17	4	0	51	17	11	5	5	29	16	93
Southampton	41	14	4	3	39	12	9	4	7	34	23	77
Huddersfield	42	11	7	3	32	16	11	4	6	33	24	77
Peterborough	42	14	4	3	62	38	8	4	9	34	31	74
MK Dons	42	13	5	3	32	19	8	3	10	30	35	71
Bournemouth	42	12	5	4	44	21	6	7	8	24	26	66
Rochdale	42	9	7	5	32	25	8	6	7	24	21	64
Leyton Orient	42	11	6	4	35	21	5	7	9	29	36	61
Exeter	42	10	5	6	37	31	7	5	9	24	37	61
Brentford	42	9	4	8	23	24	8	3	10	26	29	58
Colchester	42	11	6	4	35	28	4	6	11	16	28	57
Carlisle	42	9	7	5	34	23	6	4	11	23	31	56
Charlton	42	9	5	7	26	28	5	7	9	31	33	54
Hartlepool	42	9	4	8	29	29	6	10	15	31	54	54
Sheff Wed	42	9	5	7	34	26	6	3	12	27	36	53
Oldham	42	7	8	6	27	28	5	8	8	22	27	52
Yeovil	42	7	8	7	26	26	7	4	10	25	34	51
Tranmere	41	8	4	8	24	24	5	6	10	21	32	49
Don & Red	42	7	6	9	26	4	2	12	12	36	44	48
WALSALL	42	8	2	11	30	35	3	8	10	21	35	43
Bristol Rovers	42	6	5	10	21	32	5	5	11	22	43	43
Notts County	41	9	1	11	22	23	3	5	12	18	32	42
Swindon	42	5	9	7	19	23	3	5	13	27	42	38
Plymouth	41	8	4	8	24	26	5	3	13	23	40	36

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